

growth

the southerner 2008



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Photo by Christopher Bostick

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We live in a time of such rapid change and growth of knowledge that only he who is, in a fundamental sense, a scholar–that is, a person who continues to learn and inquire–can hope to keep pace, let alone play the role of guide.
–Nathan M. Pusey



Photo by Brettany Payne



Photo by Eric Huckabee



Life is not advancement. It is growth. It does not move upward, but expands outward, in all directions.
–Russell G. Alexander



Photo by Brettany Payne



Photo by Brettany Payne



Photo by Jaime McKercher



Photo by Madison Davis



Photo by Jaime McKercher



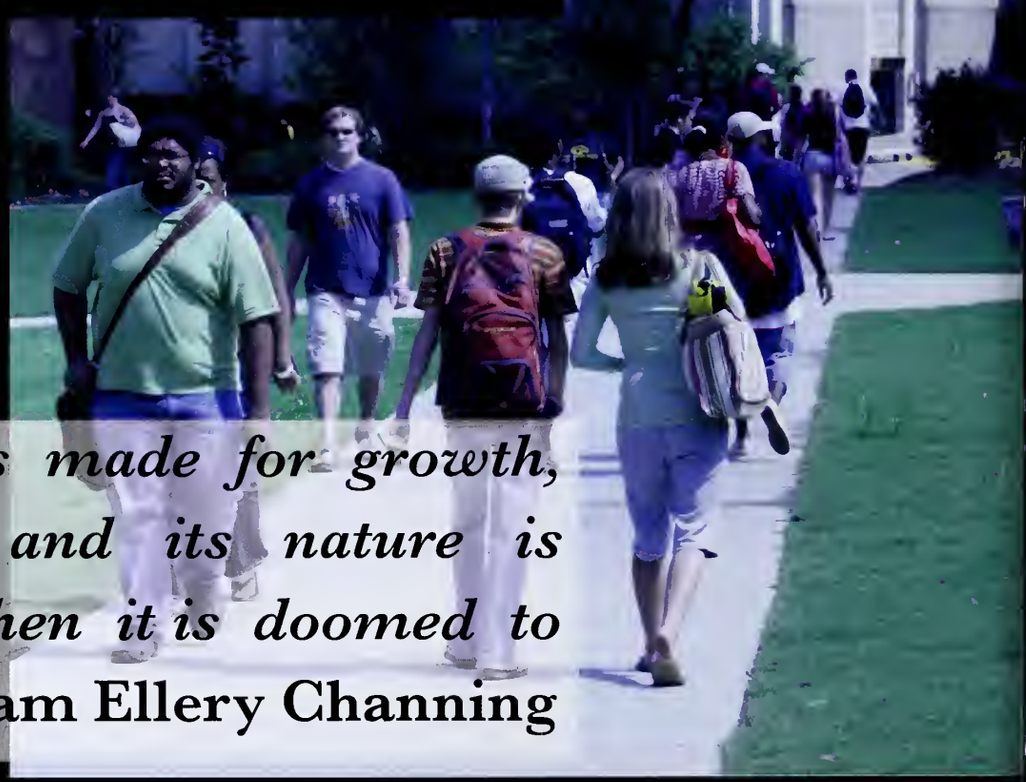
Photo by Jaime McKercher







Photos by Calvin Wu



Every mind was made for growth, for knowledge, and its nature is sinned against when it is doomed to ignorance. –William Ellery Channing

Without continual growth and progress, such words as improvement, achievement, and success have no meaning.

–Benjamin Franklin

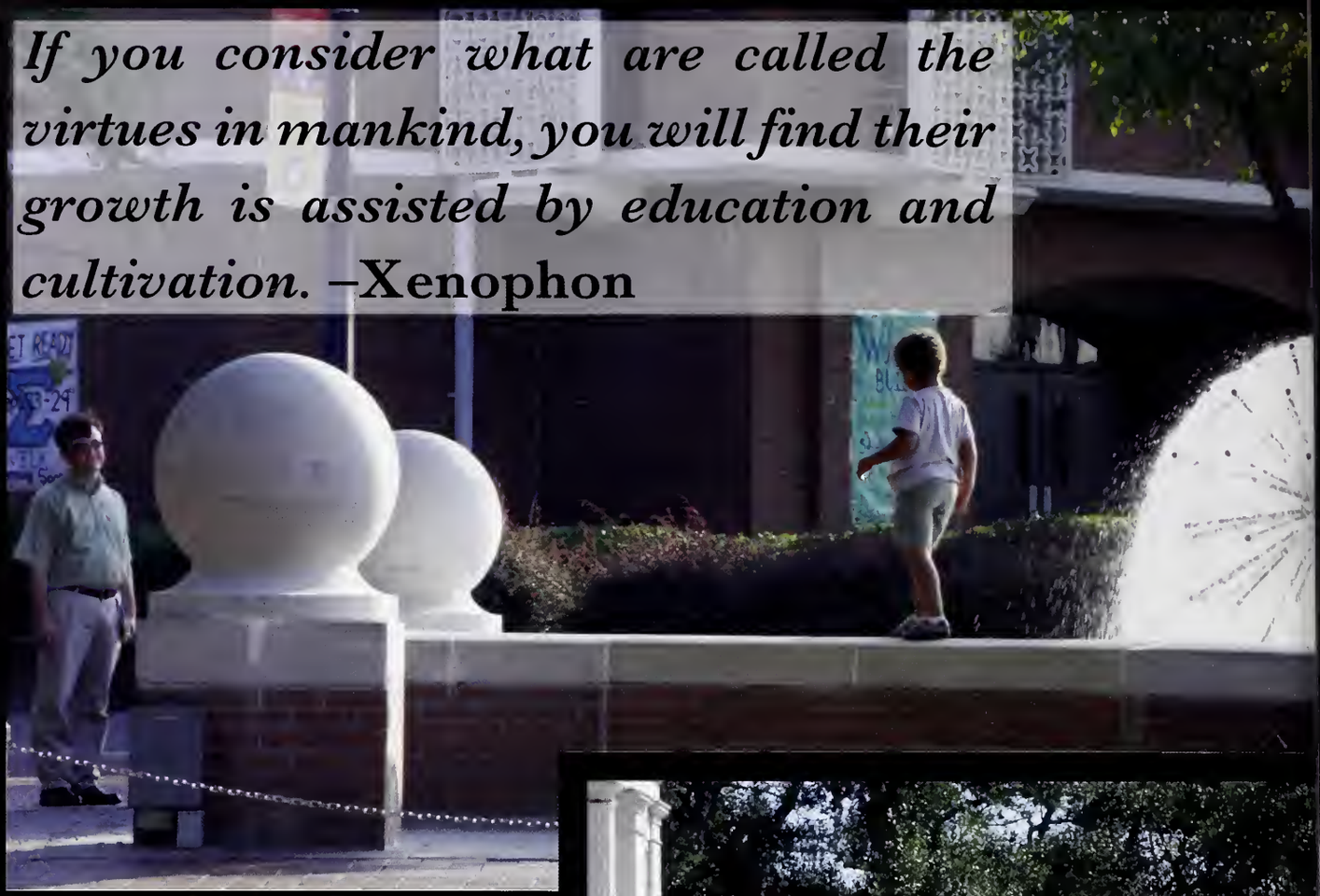


Photo by Calvin Wu



Photo by Brettany Payne

If you consider what are called the virtues in mankind, you will find their growth is assisted by education and cultivation. –Xenophon



Photos by Calvin Wu





Photo by Jaime McKercher



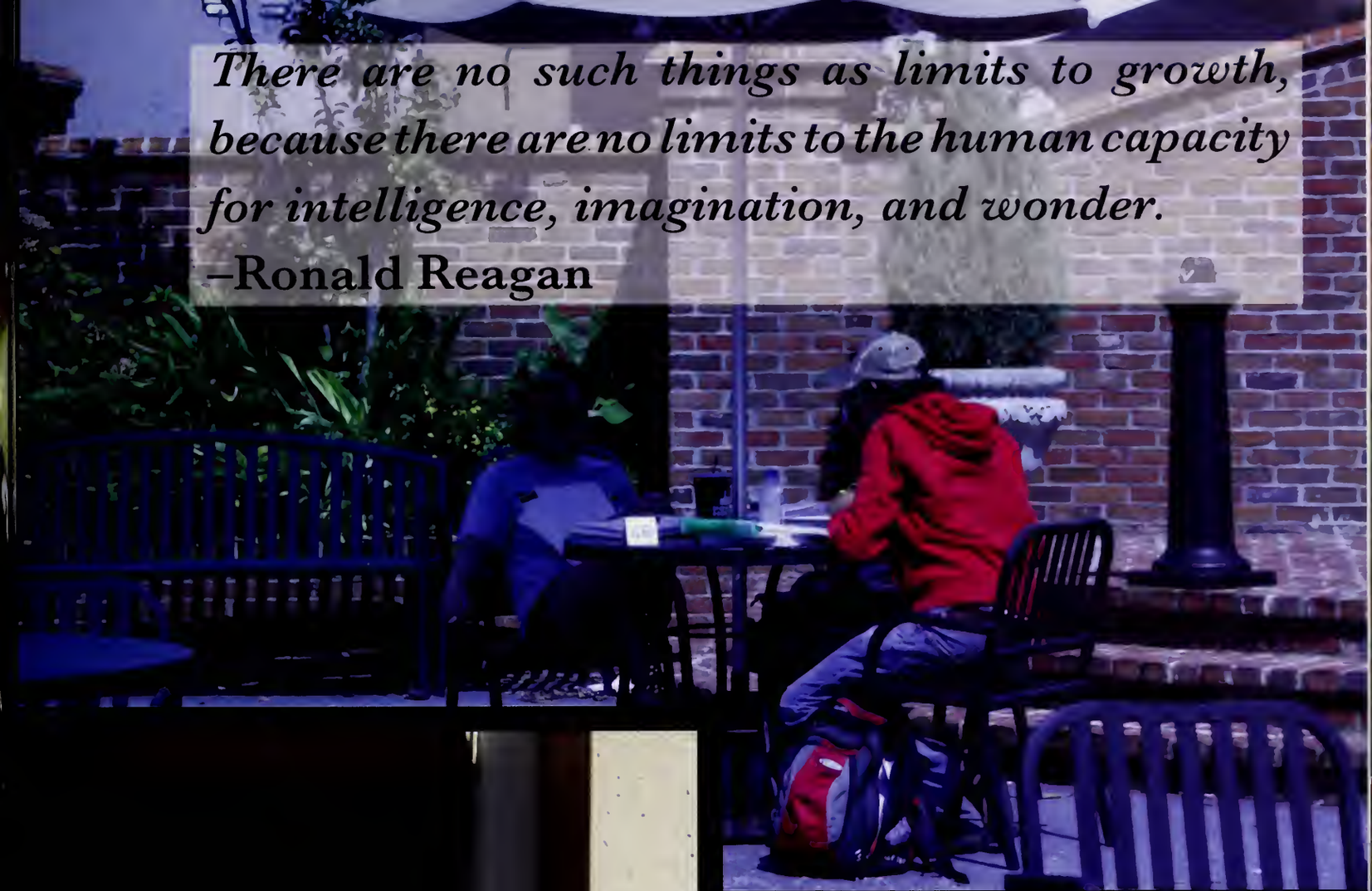
Photo by Calvin Wu



Photos by Eric Huckabee

Intellectual growth should commence at birth and cease only at death.
–Albert Einstein

There are no such things as limits to growth, because there are no limits to the human capacity for intelligence, imagination, and wonder.
–Ronald Reagan

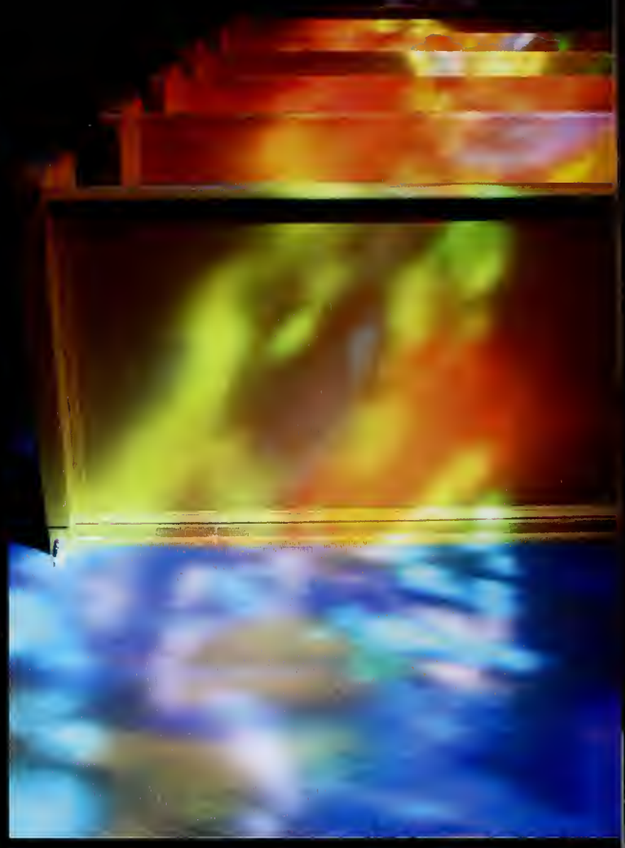




Photos by Calvin Wu

Photos by Calvin Wu











Photos by Eric Huckabee

Everything is a gift of the universe–even joy, anger, jealousy, frustration, or separateness. Everything is perfect either for our growth or our enjoyment.

–Ken Keyes

student life



Photo by Jaime McKercher

Despite the construction on M.M. Roberts Stadium, the class of 2011 still had the opprotunity to paint the Eagle Walk. Taylor Goodie helped his team take home the win through his participation in this GEWW tradition. *Photo by Jaime McKercher*



GEWW Crew members, Machel Weinacker and Logan Tisdale, show their love of Southern Miss. For most upper classmen, GEWW is a chance to give back to the university. *Photo by Jaime McKercher*



2 Hypnotic performed at this year's GEWW Friday Night at the Fountain. GEWW is a time to teach incoming students about Southern Miss traditions.
Photo by Eric Huckabee

TAKING ROOT

Golden Eagle Welcome Week

Southern Miss hosted its annual Golden Eagle Welcome Week (GEWW) from August 18th to August 22nd, 2007, the week before the beginning of the fall semester and the hustle and bustle of new classes. GEWW allows fresh Southern Miss students to meet new friends, learn about their school, and enjoy exciting entertainment, serving as an initiation and orientation into our Eagle family. The First Year Experience Office decided to base this year's GEWW theme on ABC's hit reality TV show with the title *Extreme Makeover*.

Students started their adventure in Bennet Auditorium with a welcome from Southern Syle and the GEWW Crew, who performed dances and cheers. "I really enjoyed teaching freshmen how we show school spirit at Southern Miss," said Johnathon Pegues, elementary education senior from Batesville, Mississippi. "As a member of Southern Style, it is our job to motivate them during the entire jam packed week."

GEWW Crew members divided students into teams and guided them through the week in order to make each person feel at home during their many activities. All incoming freshmen were given a copy of *Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neale Hurston and *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee during Preview to read over the summer. They discussed the issues surrounding the topics of the books with their GEWW leaders during small group sessions.

GEWW participants got to experience Southern Miss traditions first hand as they painted the Eagle Walk and attended their first pep rally during Friday Night at the Fountain, which featured 2 Hypnotic. After a day of learning traditional Southern Miss cheers like the Nasty Bunch and the Southern Miss Shout Out, the new students had an opportunity to cheer along with the Pride of Mississippi, the Dixie Darlings, and the cheerleaders during Friday Night at the Fountain. "I really enjoyed the pep rally," said nursing major, Carrie Prior from Hattiesburg, Mississippi. "We learned cheers and dances. The GEWW Crew and Southern Style even taught us the Soulja Boy dance."

Students also attended a seminar to help them adapt to college life and grow as individuals. The topics included Living a Healthy Life, Relationship Reconstruction, Tearing Down Stereotypes, and Facebook Facelift. Several mini sessions at the Payne Center allowed students to further understand the significance of dieting, exercise, and lowering alcohol consumption on one's physical and emotional health.

GEWW participants also had the opportunity to learn about the arts through a new program this year, the Southern Miss Art Experience. They toured the Theater and Dance building, participated in a dance class, and collectively painted a large canvas. The week ended with an Honors College orientation, a picnic with Dr. Saunders, and a performance by illusionist Justin Kredible. "His performance was my favorite part of GEWW," said general studies major Elana Jackson from Hattiesburg, Mississippi. "He was absolutely hilarious."

GEWW aims to do more than entertain freshmen and transfer students during their first week at Southern Miss—the event helps students set down their roots in new soil.

Story by Jennifer Vital
Background Photo by Eric Huckabee





Justin Kredible started his career at the tender age of five after injuring his hands, in search of an alternative for physical therapy. Today, he performs at universities and has made TV appearances.

Photo by Christopher Bostick



Justin Kredible teaches Meryl Dakin from Slidell, Louisiana, how to properly conjure her ring from Patrick Laughlin's handkerchief.
Photo by Calvin Wu



While typically known as a master of the sleight-of-hand, Justin Kredible successfully swallowed a whole balloon during his performance.
Photo by Calvin Wu

TRICKED OUT

Justin Kredible brings magic to GEWW

Entering students at Southern Miss are greeted not only with award winning academic programs, but also with events geared toward making them feel at home in the Southern Miss community. Possibly the most well known of these events is Golden Eagle Welcome Week, an orientation to the Southern Miss family. This year's feature guest was the comedy-magician Justin Kredible.

Hailing from St. Louis, Missouri, Justin Kredible began his career with his sister's fifth birthday party and has since spread his antics across the country. Currently, Justin tours college campuses and other venues with multiple television appearances totaling over 300 live shows annually. According to his official fan site, Justin's appearances range from Bally's Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas to The Today Show to college campuses nationwide.

According to Devin McDougald, a freshman Biology major from Harahan, Louisiana, this event was important in building the cohesiveness of the student body from the very beginning of the freshman experience. "Events such as this one at Golden Eagle Welcome Week are great at bringing people together," said McDougald.

In addition to bringing the student body together, Justin's performance was the pinnacle of the week's entertainment for some students. "It was awesome," said Patrick Laughlin, a freshman anthropology major from Pearl River, Louisiana. "It was an amazing idea and definitely the highlight of the entire week."

The choice to have performers as unique as Justin Kredible is only one example of how Southern Miss strives to provide students with new experiences that offer unconventional forms of entertainment. Justin's act incorporated variations on classic magic tricks such as catching a paintball with his teeth and magically teleporting a twenty-dollar bill, in addition to comedy geared toward a college-aged crowd.

"Event's like this get kids excited, and Justin related to the students really well," said Meryl Dakin, a freshman international studies major from New Orleans, Louisiana, "this performance was something truly out of the ordinary."

Story by Christopher Mills



Photo by Christopher Bostick

RENOVATED AND RENEWED

Seymour's takes on a new look

During the summer of 2007, Seymour's received a drastic renovation that included modifications to the interior design as well as the menu. Seymour's opened with the R.C. Cook University Union, and since then it has grown into an integral part of student life, at the center of both the campus itself and almost every activity therein.

The Eagle Dinning Office wanted this food court to be more inviting and intimate. "It was a much needed renovation," said Brian Swindoll, the Technical Service Manager for the Union. "We have noticed how it has become a more popular hang out place. It is enjoyed by more people now."

An interior designer was hired to change the layout of the room in order to better appeal to students. Colorful panels now hang from the ceiling break the room into inviting sections rather than the open, dull room of the past.

"The way it looks now gives it a more comfortable atmosphere than the Fresh Food Company," said construction engineering major Nathan Morecai from Columbus, Mississippi. "It's now less crowded and less noisy and the hamburgers are so much better."

"Renovations had been done all around the Union, starting with the old commons closing and moving to the Thad Cochran Center as the Fresh Food Company," said Michael Brown, the Marketing Manager for Eagle Dinning. "We felt the need to make Seymour's dinning experience nicer by having a refreshing change." Since opening, Seymour's had only had a minor renovation in 2004.

Eagle Dinning conducts on-line surveys every semester. Last year the survey focused on ideas for the renovation of Seymour's, starting with the food concepts, meaning which restaurants to keep and which to remove. "We decided to have fewer restaurants and focus on better quality of food in each of the remaining restaurants," said Brown. After numerous on-line votes, Seymour's now includes a Chick-fil-A, GrilleWorks, Java City, and Tortilla Fresca.

Seymour's carries the name of the Southern Miss mascot, a heavy legacy to carry. Still, the students aren't complaining—customers and employees alike: "I love working here. The needed renovations have brought more costumers because of the nicer atmosphere," said LaNyrtra Bush, a cashier. "It simply draws attention now."

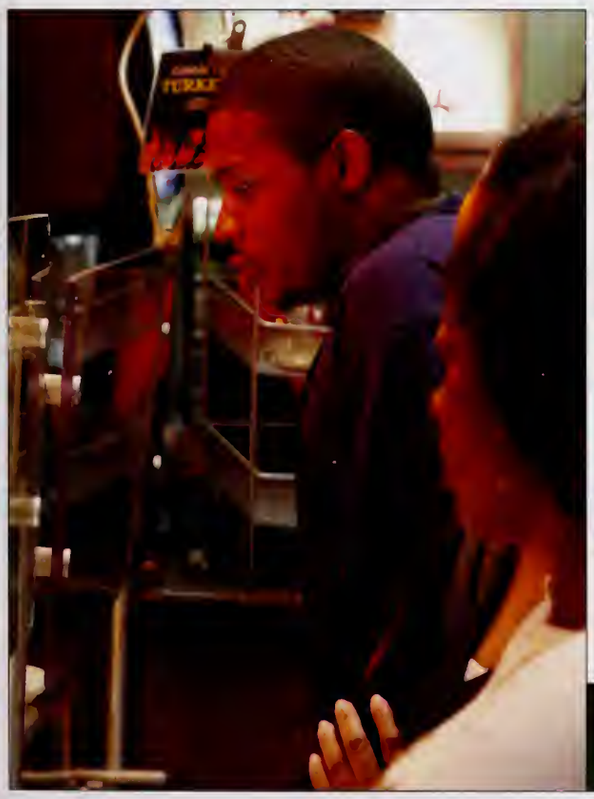
Seymour's growth and renovations invite more students, staff and teachers, as it reflects the advancements seen on campus and in each person here at Southern Miss.

Story by Jennifer Vital



Matt McWhorter, a Junior from Mobile, Alamaba, places an order at Tortilla Fresca, the newest addition to Seymour's.
Photo by Madison Davis

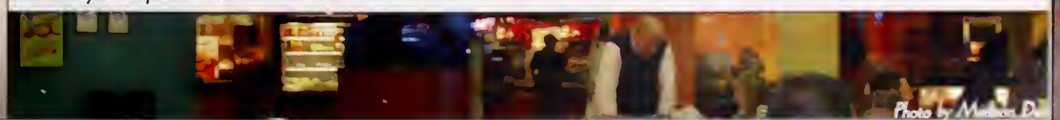
The redesigned Seymour's layout: the summer renovations focused heavily on creating a warmer, more comfortable atmosphere.
Photo by Madison Davis





Ryan Jackson and Tommy Masteri consider their choices while in line at Tortilla Fresca. The expanded menu has helped to create more diverse options in Seymour's dining.
Photo by Briana Dekernel

Junior Jamie Gibbs patiently awaits his hamburger at GrilleWorks, one of Seymour's returning restaurants.
Photo by Christopher Bostick



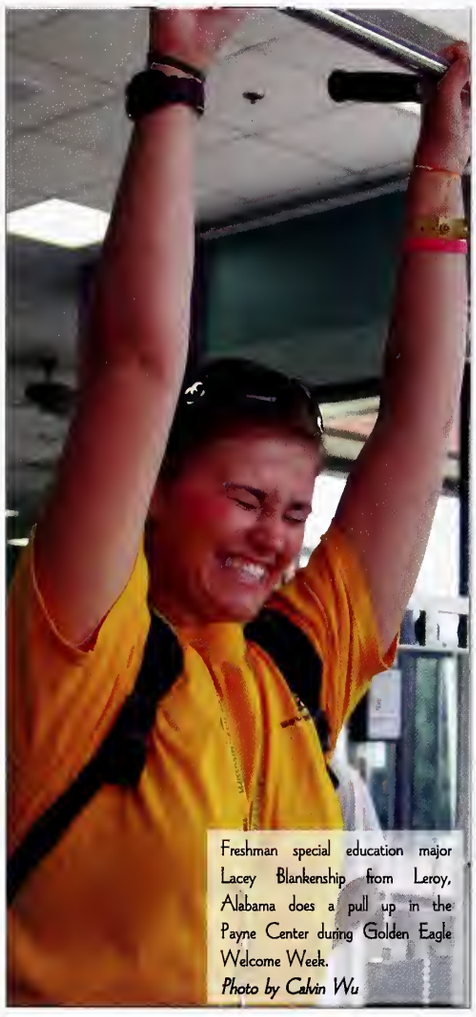


"a good way for me to **relax** after exams"

Photo by Christy Dyess



The Southern Miss Martial Arts Club practices under the direction of Sensei Randy Buchannon in the squash court. *Photo by Christy Dyess*



Freshman special education major Lacey Blankenship from Leroy, Alabama does a pull up in the Payne Center during Golden Eagle Welcome Week.
Photo by Calvin Wu



Freshman biological sciences major Austin White from Hattiesburg, Mississippi bounces off the wall while playing racquetball.
Photo by Brettany Payne

FITNESS ON CAMPUS



Junior Apryl Jackson and senior Kim Brown use floatation devices for water aerobics in the Payne Center's natatorium. *Photo by Brettany Payne*

making the most of the Payne Center

The classic piece of advice that is given from coach to player, from trainer to trainee: no pain, no gain. Naturally, this became the slogan for the University of Southern Mississippi's gymnasium, the Payne Center. Built in 1993 and named to honor Jimmy and Austin Payne, the center is home to a circuit training center, relaxed-atmosphere fitness classes, two indoor swimming pools and a weight room. It was even named one of the finest centers of its kind in the nation by the National Intramural-Recreational Sports Administration.

Facilities aside, the most important draw to the Payne Center is that it offers a free membership to every student. "Many students don't know that they have free membership. It's convenient, not having to worry about a gym bill in addition to tuition and books," said Quinn Bradley, a freshman dance major from Coon Rapids, Minnesota.

The Payne Center is more than just a workout, though. It hosts several organizations like the Karate Club and the Fencing Team, and has open courts available for sports from racquetball to badminton to basketball.

"I use the track mostly, and it's a good way for me to relax after exams. But the sauna is my favorite spot when I'm too lazy to do anything else," said Amy Clark, a biological sciences graduate student from Meridian, Mississippi. The Payne Center also offers specific classes that give college credit as well as workout programs for students, faculty, and staff alike.

Completing a full circuit in the Wisteria Circuit Training Center takes about twenty to thirty minutes–leaving the student or faculty member refreshed after a short but intense workout. The convenience of small, personal classes opens up doors for those who just want to pop in for a brief amount of time, take a shower, and then jump off to work or class.

The Payne Center is also frequented by many of the official sports teams of Southern Miss—not surprising given the quality of the facility. The volleyball team recruits and trains on the center's indoor and outdoor courts, while the soccer team stretches together during morning yoga.

The Payne Center offers something for all students, from the most devoted athletes to those just looking to spend a few minutes between classes burning off the calories—and anxieties—of the day. There is wisdom in that ancient saying: no pain, no gain; and it is the goal of the Payne Center to encourage all students and faculty to take the time to help themselves grow in both mind and body.

Story by Hannah McInnis



Freshman international business major Nick Kelsoe from Semmes, Alabama pulls his weight in front of a scenic view of campus. *Photo by Brettany Payne*



Freshman Josh Richards from Mobile, Alabama uses an exercise ball to strengthen his leg and back muscles. *Photo by Brettany Payne*

Before Hitting the Rock

get down at the District

The smell of barbeque and the sight of students and fans coming together to have a great time: this is what tailgating in the District is all about. On any other day, the District looks like nothing more than a typical part of campus near the intersection of Highway 49 and Hardy Street. During home games, however, that peaceful area grows into a bustling center where Golden Eagle fans wait eagerly to watch their team take the field.

"Tailgating is the only way to get the whole game day experience," said Neil Rogers, a junior history and political science major from Magee, Mississippi. Not only is it a proper way to get ready for the game, but it's also a great way to spend time with friends and meet new people.

Kameron Smith, a sophomore business management major from Mobile, Alabama, enjoys tailgating for the opportunities it provides: "I like tailgating because it's not just one group of people hanging out. All of the different groups on campus are out there having a good time. Its a great way to see old friends or meet new people."

The District also hosts many other activities, including the Freshman Finale at the end of every year and game parties during the fall, when the football team has away games. "I think it's great that they put some away games on the big screen in the District. It makes it a lot easier to watch the game then trying to squeeze people in a room to watch it on a small television," said Adam Ahmed, a biological sciences major from Madison, Mississippi. There can be no doubt: the district is a big part of student life on campus.

Whether for a game party, the Freshman Finale, or tailgating before the game, the District is the place to be. "The atmosphere in the District is really hard to put into words. There is no better way to get ready for the game," said Rogers. "We are all in different groups, different majors, and come from different lifestyles," said Ahmed. "But on game day in the district, we are all united under two colors: black and gold."

Story by Alan Wheat

Background Photo by Christy Dyess



Keeping a close watch on lunch, Matt Parish cooks enough hamburgers to go around. Parish is a sophomore Business major from Clinton, Mississippi.
Photo by Christy Dyess



Linsey Mingo and Matthew Yeatman get hyped up for gameday. Tailgating in the District is one of many gameday traditions.
Photo by Eric Huckabee



Seymour D'Campus shows off his flexibility during the Homecoming Kick-Off Party in the District
Photo by Christy Dyess



Kendrell White shows his Southern Miss pride by sporting some sweet overalls. White is a sophomore accounting major from Natchez, Mississippi. *Photo by Christy Dyess*



Making sure the lines of his "M" are perfect for the cameras, Ben Benson paints himself in hopes of making it onto ESPN. Ben Benson is a sophomore math major from Hattiesburg, Mississippi.
Photo by Christy Dyess

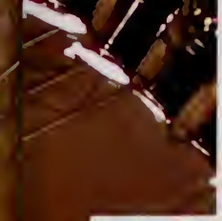
The ReBirth Brass Band, originally created in 1983, has travelled all over the world spreading the ambiance of New Orleans. ReBirth visited Southern Miss for the Homecoming Friday Night at the Fountain on October 12th.
Photo by Calvin Wu



Quenching the thirst of thousands of students at Friday Night at the Fountain is not an easy task. The University Activities Council and Student Government Association provide Coca-Cola products at every pep rally for thirsty students.
Photo by Calvin Wu



The Benjy Davis Project visited campus for the October 26th Friday Night at the Fountain. The group wowed fans with their laid back, heart-felt music. The lead singer, Benjy Davis, started singing to treat his speech impediment.
Photo by Christopher Bostick



Students take an opprotunity to unwind at Friday Night at the Fountain. *Photo by Calvin Wu*

UNLEASHING THE SPIRIT

friday night at the fountain fosters pride



Fans and students cheer, the band plays, cheerleaders do their routines, and the athletes bask in the glow of the lime light. Friday Night at the Fountain has been a Southern Miss tradition for generations, and continues to grow in popularity with each new freshman class that arrives.

Every Friday night before a home game, the school sponsors a 'pep rally' of sorts to help bolster the spirit of the students and the morale of the team. After all, the players need all the encouragement that they can get – from students and alumni alike.



Each Friday night before a home football game, Southern Miss hosts a pep rally featuring The Pride of Mississippi, the Dixie Darlings, the Southern Misses, the football team, and a visiting band. Southern Miss fans of all ages show up for Friday Night at the Fountain.
Photo by Calvin Wu

A lot of people, however, do not seem to realize how much energy actually goes into planning these special Friday nights, which are produced by the efforts of several student organizations and university departments, including the University Activities Council, the Student Government Association, and the Athletics Department.

"I'm the mic man and I just go up and say something spirited and impromptu," said SGA President Vince Fabra, a senior mass communications and journalism major from Metairie, Louisianna. Fabra has been getting Southern Miss fired up for three years now. "Being on stage almost weekly to get people excited has really helped me buy what I sell."

"The band, especially, goes through a lot of work of preparing our music to perform for the students," said Henry Adams Jr., a senior electronic engineering technology major from Raceland, Louisiana and member of the Pride of Mississippi. "This is our school and we want to help cheer on the team as much as we can."

Athletics are more than just sports for many of the fans of Southern Miss: they are simply a way of life. Knowing this, then, is it any surprise to discover just how much energy comes from Friday Night at the Fountain? Perhaps for some: "I did not really go during my freshman year," said Julia Bussel, a sophomore English major from Anne Arbor, Michigan, "but I have started going more this year, and I regret not going in the past. There is a lot of energy that flies around when you get excited about your college's team. It is a real rush to be there."

Julia isn't the only student who's discovered a love for the tradition: Jonathan Buchanan, a sophomore biological science major from Carthage, Mississippi, said it best: "I think Friday Night at the Fountain kind of symbolizes what it means to be a college student by letting us all release our school spirit together."

Story by Hannah McInnis

GOOD AS GOLD

a week of homecoming spirit

Every fall, organizations around campus come together to display their spirit in an explosion of black and gold that we call Homecoming. Activities are hosted throughout the week that allow students to show off their Southern Miss pride. Student organizations are usually paired together for different events hosted during the week. The events themselves run the gambit from float stuffing to a cross-dressing pageant. At the end of the week, the team that has accumulated the most points is declared the overall winner.

Homecoming Week began on October 7th with the start of float stuffing, but it didn't officially begin until the Homecoming Kickoff Party the next day. The party transformed the District into a tangle of free food and excited students, culminating in a limbo contest.

"It's so great to see people getting pumped about the school during Homecoming Week," said Drew Meriwether, a junior biological science major from Charlottesville, Virginia. "The excitement is just infectious. You see everyone else getting fired up and you can't help but get excited yourself."

The fountain sit, one of the first of the week's contests, continually proves to be a popular event among participants and spectators alike. The competition begins around 10 in the morning as participants take their seats in the fountain at Shoemaker Square. The competition ends when there is only one person left. "It was a lot of fun to cheer on our teammate who was in the fountain," said Rebecca Hulsey, a sophomore biological science and chemistry major from Biloxi, Mississippi. "You wouldn't think that it could be that intense, but it was."

Perhaps the most shocking event in the Homecoming Week schedule is the Mr. and Miss Varsity Pageant. Formerly the Miss Varsity Pageant, this year marked the first time that female students participated in the event by dressing as men while their male teammates dressed as women. Once all the participants were properly attired, they competed in several events including a dance contest. "The beauty pageant is always a great time. Seeing grown men in dresses parading around is always good for a laugh. It's just quality entertainment," said Justin Howard, a senior history major from Lucedale, Mississippi.

This year, for the first time ever, a team was established for students that do not belong to a particular group on campus. The Black and Gold team, as it was named, was a force throughout the week. "I was surprised to see so many students who aren't affiliated with Greek or student organizations take part in the Black and Gold team," said Taylor Randall, a junior psychology major from Pensacola, Florida. "To see that kind of inspiration in every student is really amazing."

As Homecoming Week continues to grow at Southern Miss, so does it's support. Students bring more to the week every year in terms of participation and excitement. Brandon Drescher, a junior marine chemistry major form High Point, North Carolina, has high hopes for this trend to continue: "The support received this year certainly topped what I saw last year. I don't see this slowing down anytime soon."

Story by Alan Wheat



Photo by Christy Dyess

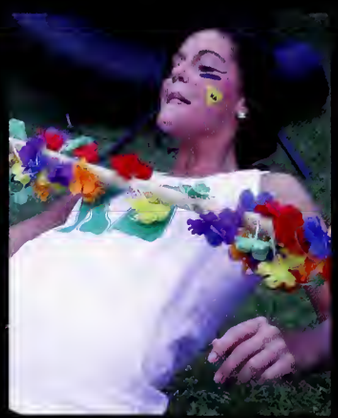


Photo by Christy Dyess



Photo by Christopher Bostick

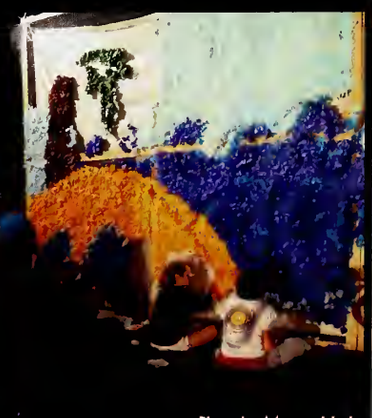


Photo by Morgan Hughes



Freshman Jenna Zitzelberger from Gautier, Mississippi endures the freezing-cold ice walk during the fountain sit in Shoemaker Square. *Photo by Christopher Bostick*



Sophomore Tony Kippes from Long Beach, Mississippi finishes his lush performance during the talent portion of the Mister & Miss Varsity Pageant. *Photo by Calvin Wu*



Senior Lindsay Hays represents Kappa Delta Sorority in the Mister & Miss Varsity Pageant as a crowd pleasing Elvis Presley. *Photo by Christy Dyess*



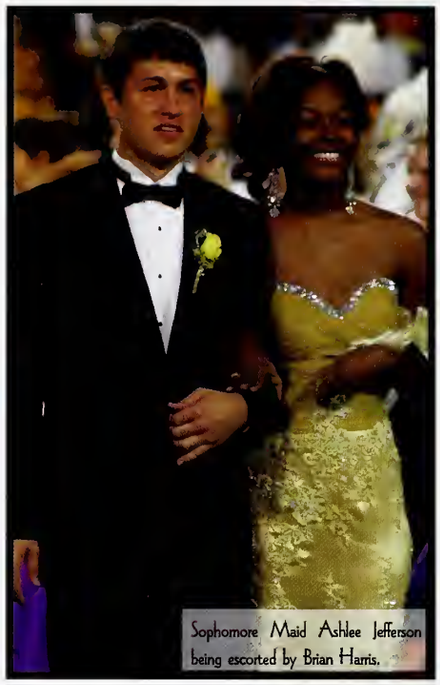
Photo by Christy Dyess



Photo by Calvin Wu



Photo by Christy Dyess



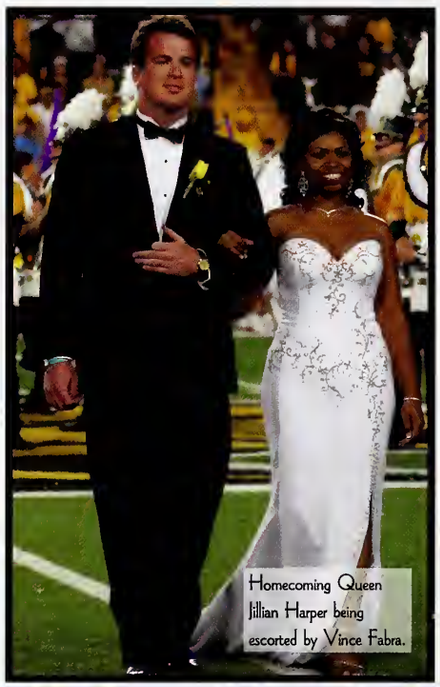
Sophomore Maid Ashlee Jefferson being escorted by Brian Harris.



Freshman Maid Kristen Bienigno being escorted by J.R. Robinson.



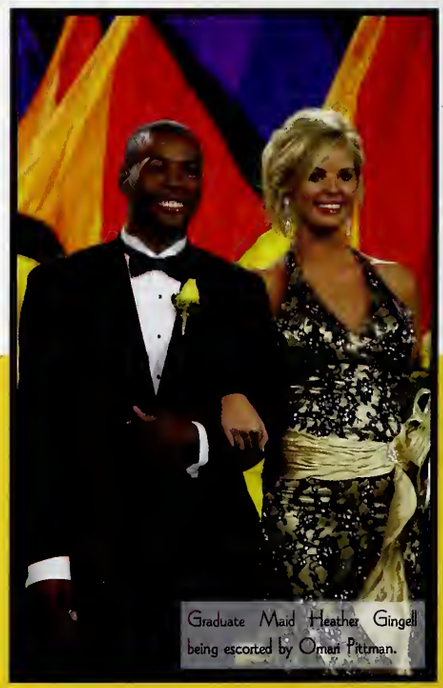
Junior Maid Jenell Ward being escorted by Joe Sabin.



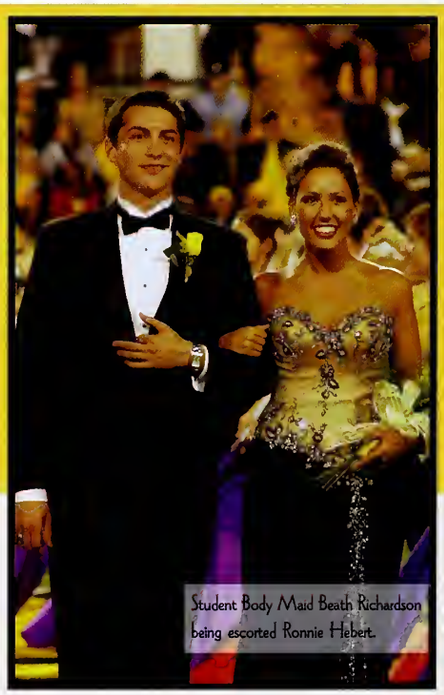
Homecoming Queen Jillian Harper being escorted by Vince Fabra.



Senior Maid Christine Downs being escorted by Whit Meeks.



Graduate Maid Heather Gingell being escorted by Omari Pittman.



Student Body Maid Beath Richardson being escorted Ronnie Hebert.

All Photos Submitted by Student Printz Photo Editor Rebecca Macias

Glamorous Gowns And Touchdowns

the homecoming experience



Miss Southern Miss Ashley Cangelosi being escorted by Mr. Southern Miss Keith Lampkin. *Photo Submitted by Rebecca Macias*

The Homecoming Court took the field on October 13th at the football game against Southern Methodist University. This year the court included Queen Jillian Harper, Graduate Maid Heather Gingell, Senior Maid Christine Downs, Junior Maid Jenell Ward, Sophomore Maid Ashlee Jefferson, and Freshmen Maid Kristen Benigno.

The day began early for the Homecoming Court as they participated in various events, starting with the annual Homecoming Parade, which began at the University Mall parking lot and traveled down Hardy Street through the entrance of campus. "The parade and actually walking out onto the field at halftime were my two favorite events of the day. During the parade, I felt like all eyes were on me and it was a totally cool experience. I absolutely loved being a member of the court," said Junior Maid Jenell Ward, a nursing major from Pearl, Mississippi.

The Court was also honored at a banquet and presented with plaques by Dr. Saunders. "I felt really excited to be chosen to represent the graduate student population on the Homecoming Court. It was such a wonderful experiences and it is something I will cherish forever," said Heather Ann Gingell, the Graduate Maid and a psychology graduate student from Columbia, Mississippi.

Following tradition, the queen, Jillian Harper, was escorted down the fifty- yard line by Student Goverment Assocation President Vincent Fabra. The Court also took part in the Eagle Walk and half-time festivities. "Being a maid was the best experience I could have had as a freshman. I got to meet so many new people and it was definitely a great start to my Southern Miss experience," said Freshman Maid Kristen Benigno, a speech communication major from Laurel, Mississippi.

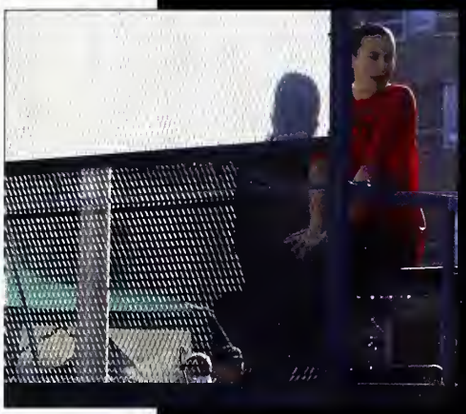
Some of the most honorable, beautiful, and well-rounded ladies on campus get to represent Southern Miss through the Homecoming Court, and with each year the tradition grows as another circle of fine young women take their place on the field and in our memories.

Story by Brettany Payne



Photo by Calvin Wu

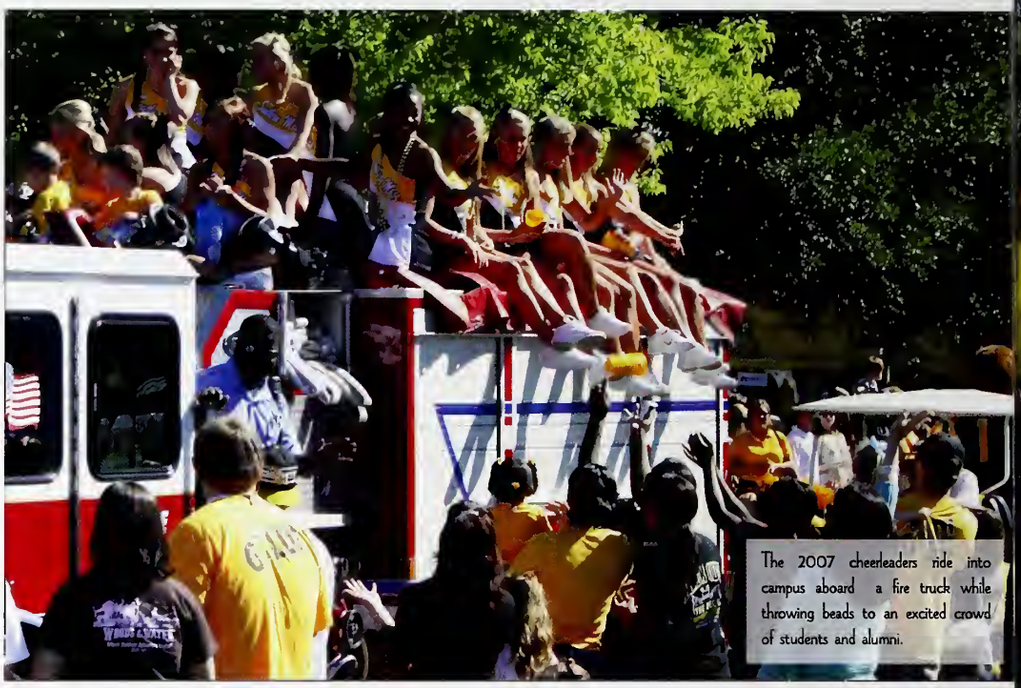




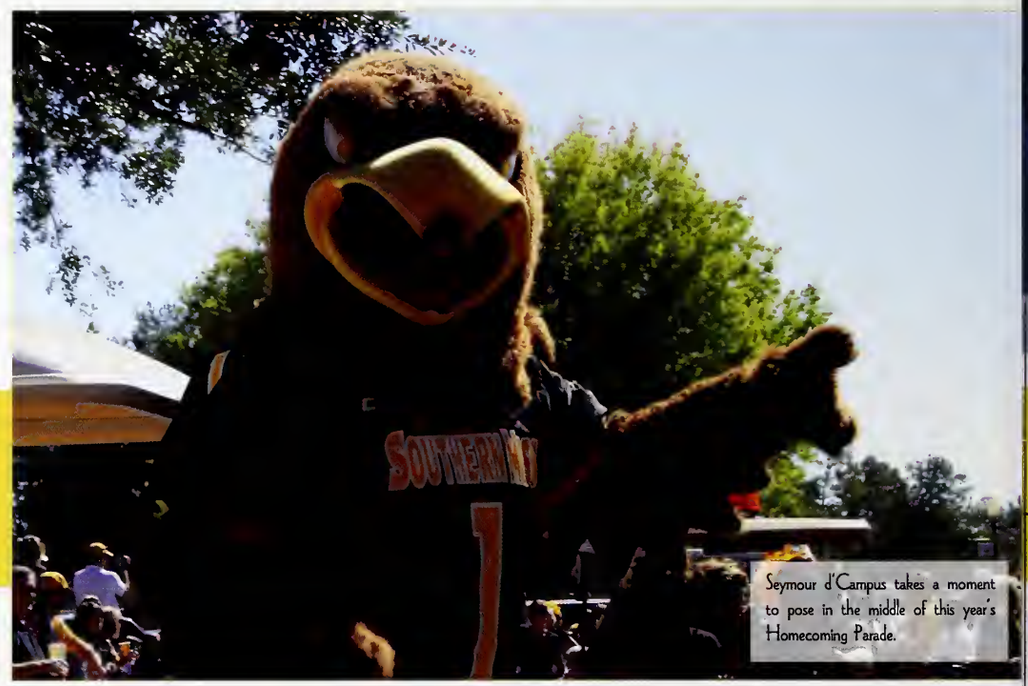




Heather Grush shows her spirit by bravely volunteering for the dunking booth during tailgating on Homecoming Day.



The 2007 cheerleaders ride into campus aboard a fire truck while throwing beads to an excited crowd of students and alumni.



Seymour d'Campus takes a moment to pose in the middle of this year's Homecoming Parade.



The Dixie Darlings lead the parade as it winds its way back to campus.



The Colorguard leads the march with a flourish during the Homecoming Parade. The Colorguard is a volunteer corp within the Pride.

All photos by Calvin Wu

UNITING PAST AND PRESENT

joining together to celebrate Southern Miss

Growth is more than just an accumulation of new things, it is the past realized in a greater form. This growth is most apparent on Homecoming Day, as alumni return year after year to celebrate the continued growth of their beloved school with its current students, who will one day return to Southern Miss themselves.

Each year ushers in a new theme, and this year's was: "Southern Miss… Good As Gold." The biggest addition to Homecoming, though, wasn't the new theme: it was the overwhelming effort displayed by the new Black and Gold team, a group of otherwise unaffiliated students.

Homecoming Day began at nine in the morning with the judging of the floats that had been constructed throughout the week. Afterwards, the parade began at two, featuring not only current students but, true to the spirit and name of "Homecoming," also welcomed back various alumni who served as members of the Dixie Darlings. Participants in the parade also included the Southern Miss cheerleaders and the Pride of Mississippi, both ready to give their all to support their university during this day of celebration.

"I think the Pride really stepped it up this year," said Stephanie Stilts, a sophomore music education major from Thibodaux, Louisiana, "and it's always so cool to see everyone getting ready for Homecoming, united."

Homecoming itself, though, is nothing without the main event, and the Southern Miss Golden Eagles played against the Southern Methodist University Mustangs. Halftime saw the field transform from a fierce gridiron to a royal court as the band honored the maids and the queen herself with a traditional fanfare. The efforts of students were also honored during halftime; with the Chi Omega Sorority being awarded for producing the best float while the first ever Black and Gold team claimed the prize for overall winner.

"It was great to see the Black and Gold team recognized for their sucess," said Gail Simms, one of the SGA's Homecoming directors and a junior biological science and chemistry major from Meridian, Mississippi, "they really deserved it, and I think they were glad to see the results." After a long game, the Golden Eagles were likewise victorious, with a final score of 28 to 7.

Students and alumni alike reveled in the day, celebrating the university together. Zoë Beckham, a sophomore English major from Mandeville, Louisiana reflected on the day, saying: "Homecoming day is never quite matched by any other day in terms of spirit, pride, and energy."

Story by Elliott Freeman

Filling a bucket with pancake batter, Josh Parker prepares for a Fresh Food Company dinner meal on a Friday night. Parker is a junior art major from Hattiesburg, Mississippi. *All Photos by Christy Dyess*



THE RIGHT JOB

finding employment that fits the student

Many college students hit the job just as hard as they hit the books. Additionally, the increasing cost of college forces many students to seek jobs while they manage their classes and assignments. Student employment helps students of all ages and backgrounds earn money to be able to meet their college expenses. At Southern Miss, the Office of Career Services helps students find the right job for them through the Office of Student Employment.

"The best part of working is being able to take care of myself and not having to rely on my mom or ask for financial assistance," said elementary education major Melanie Fowler from Gautier, Mississippi. College students acquire work experience to enhance their education as well as paying for the education itself. For some students, staying close to campus allows them to practice their money management skills more easily.

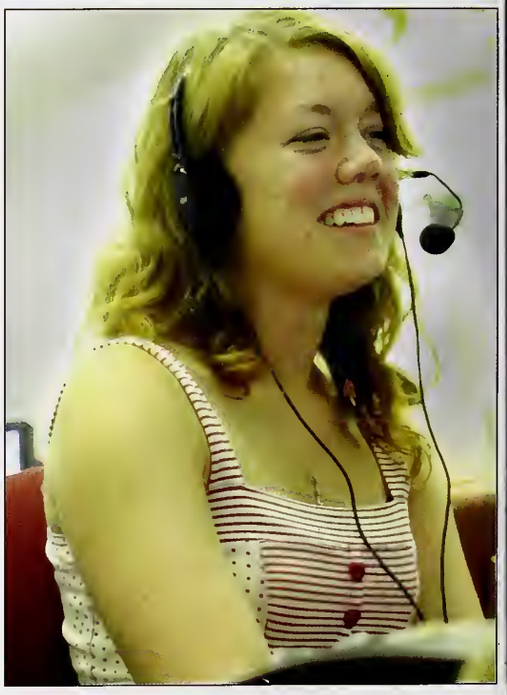
Students at Southern Miss must attend school full time for eligibility to work in any of the university departments, this means that undergraduates must be enrolled in at least 12 class hours, and graduate students in at least 9 hours. Students working for the university may take off during student breaks, or, according to their department and job description they may be allowed to work during the breaks to earn more money.

"The best part about working and going to school for me is that it's in the same place. I have most of my classes in Southern Hall, so it makes it pretty easy to just run down to the basement after class to teach lab or take care of darkroom chemicals," said Katie Carter, photojournalism major from Ocean Springs, Mississippi. "It also allows me more freedom than a normal job would." Working on campus is not always the best option for some students, but thankfully, jobs can be acquired off-campus.

Eagle Employment, which is a part of the Office of Career Services, helps job seekers and employers come together, assisting Southern Miss students to find part-time jobs in the Hattiesburg area, where employers accommodate class schedules. "The job is really flexible around my school schedule," said public relations major Kyle Neaves from Ocean Springs, Mississippi. Kyle works at the Pat Ferlise Center selling tickets for various USM events, as well as working at the International Filing Company in town.

Student Employment at Southern Miss also helps students receive paid summer internships or work-study summer jobs. Part-time employment positively benefits students: an on-campus research position may spark their interest in other academic programs, or they may also use their off-campus jobs to network with people in the community, which leads them to further their job opportunities.

Story by Jennifer Vital



Melanie Fowler, a freshman from Gautier, Mississippi speaks to a recent graduate of Southern Miss to update contact information for our database while also requesting donations for the university's foundation.





"more **freedom** than a **normal** job"

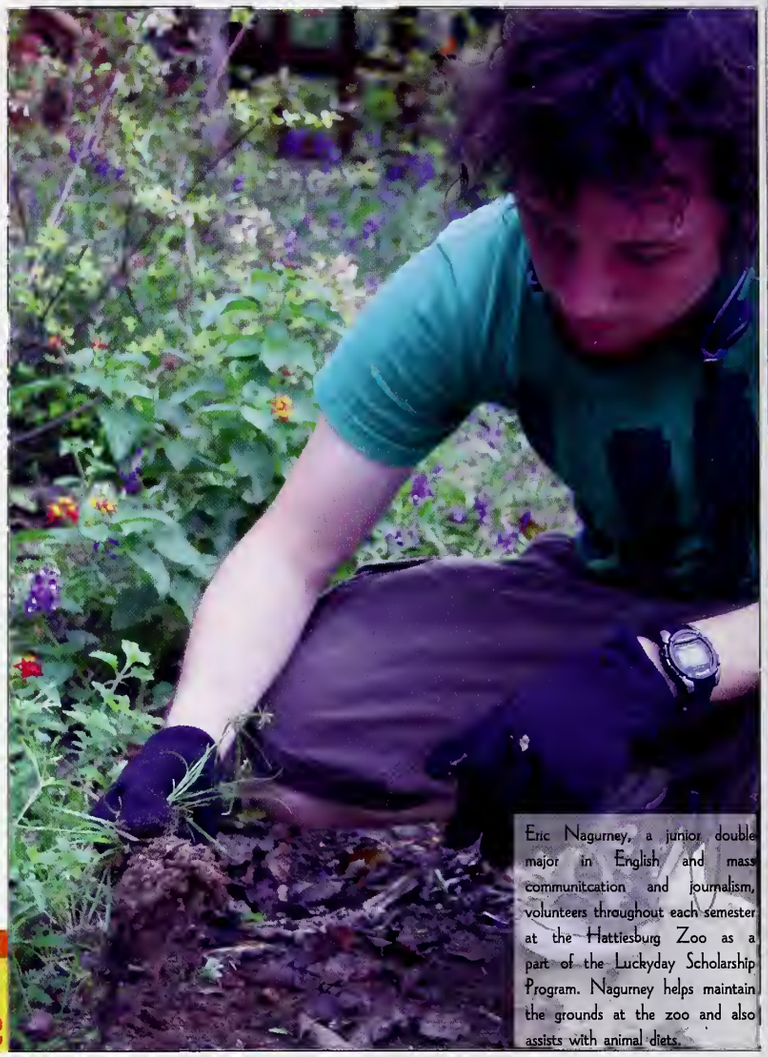
Inside the darkroom in Southern Hall, Katie Carter explains to her student Brittany Brown how to spot tone. Carter is a senior photojournalism major who teaches the lab portion of the Black and White photography course.





SHAPING CHARACTER

students grow by sharing talent and time



Eric Nagurney, a junior double major in English and mass communitcation and journalism, volunteers throughout each semester at the Hattiesburg Zoo as a part of the Luckyday Scholarship Program. Nagurney helps maintain the grounds at the zoo and also assists with animal diets.

As work helps to shape identity, giving back to the community assists college students to develop high maturity levels. In particular, Southern Miss equips students to succeed in their areas of study, while providing extra-curricular activities that aid them to develop a strong character. The Office of Community Service Learning (OCSL) at Southern Miss serves as the main resource center for community service and service learning for students, or they can enroll in community service activities through classes or by joining school organizations.

Classes that utilize community service offer students the opportunity to help others while obtaining college credit for their effort. "We get to go to low income areas of Hattiesburg and tutor for two hours every week," said Lavee Sims, an anthropology and sociology major from Memphis, Tennessee. "The satisfaction of helping kids is incredible, especially when they see their progress through a good grade."

There are several programs in which members devote many hours to help their school and community. Some programs include Luckyday Scholarship recipients and V.I.S.I.O.N. (Volunteers Impacting Society Through Individual Outreach) members.

"I started helping with Relay for Life my freshmen year since my mom suffered from cancer and because I was part of Luckyday," said Logan Tisdale, a biological science major from Isola, Mississippi. "I just kept doing it and now I'm the president of Club Relay." Club Relay is in association with the American Cancer Society. The members of Club Relay organize teams and help to raise money for the event through individual donations and fundraisers in cooperation with the whole Hattiesburg area.

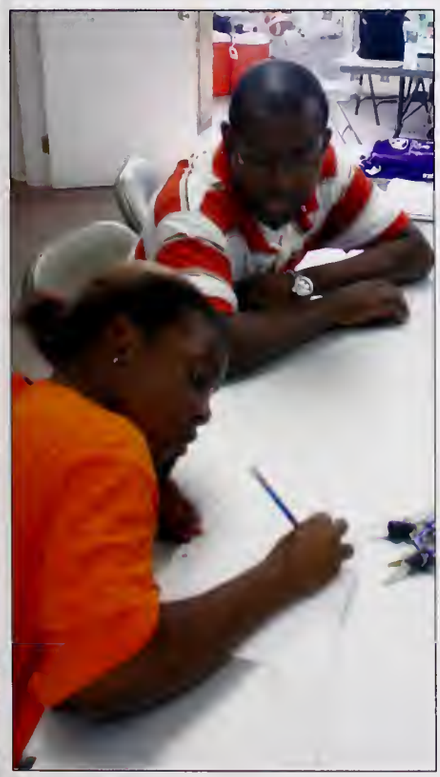
Southern Miss students learn leadership skills while directly benefiting their community. "Teaching young students has really taught me patience," said Rachel Huddleston, senior history major from Petal, Mississippi. "I get to make homework interesting while still challenging for the kids."

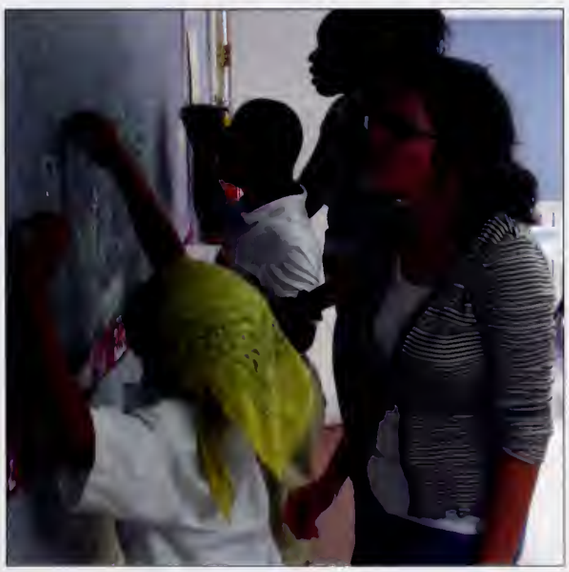
Today, Southern Miss continues its strong commitment to community, helping individuals to grow by sharing their talents and time with others.

Story by Jennifer Vital



Senior Rachel Huddleston, a history major from Petal, Mississippi, works with a younger student on writing the letters of her name. Huddleston volunters with the after school mentor program in Palmer's Crossing weekly.
All Photos by Christy Dyess





Lavee Sims, an anthrophology and sociology major from Memphis, Tennessee, gives suggestions to his mentee on a thank-you letter. Sims was introduced to the after-school mentoring program through one of his sociology classes.

"teaching young students has really taught me **patience**"



This groovy atmosphere is set up in the streets of downtown Hattiesburg, right outside the Bottling Co. The redevelopment of the downtown area has led to many outdoor concerts and events similar to this one.
Photo by Calvin Wu



Nicole Twilbeck, a junior office administration major from Ocean Springs, Mississippi, enjoys Bianchi's with her friends. Bianchi's is a new gourmet pizzeria located on Front Street downtown.
Photo by Calvin Wu

After Hours

work hard, play harder



Taking a break from academic activities becomes a necessity in order to survive college life. Part of each student's personal growth depends on their ability to balance the daily demands of life and include pleasure time. There are many activities in which college students can unleash all the tension from long hours of quizzes, lectures, and labs.

One of these options, Java Werks, is conveniently located in front of the Southern Miss campus. Besides providing students with the necessary caffeine rush, Java Werks hosts live performances on the second Saturday of every month. The Hattiesburg area also containss many restaurants and bars for students to visit after a long day of work.

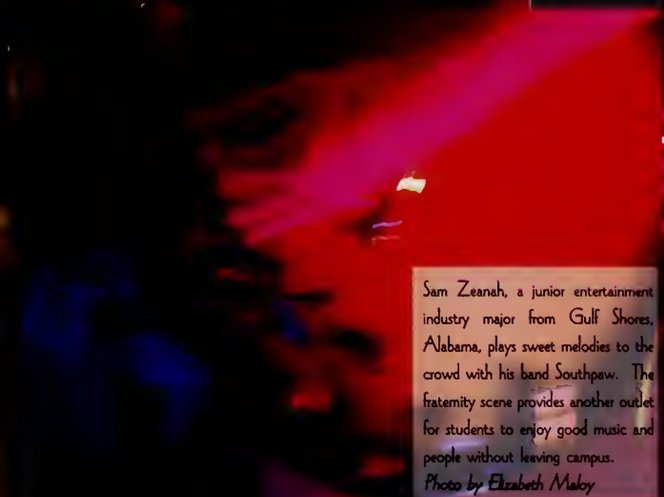
Bennie's Boom Boom Room, Brownstone's, Fat O'Harry's Tavern, and The Thirsty Hippo are a few venues that feature live music on Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays. Brownstone's serves late night dinners and beignets accompanied by live blues musicians, while Bennie's Boom Boom Room allows jazz amateurs to improvise their music. "I like to go there when I need to relax," said Corey Heart, a senior film major from Brookhaven, Mississippi. "Hattiesburg has different places to go to for many different moods."

This year, The Bottling Company celebrated its one-year anniversary. The Bottling Co. features a nostalgic décor contrasted with performances from modern bands such as Chevelle, Corey Smith, and Stereo Hype. On Tuesday nights in downtown Hattiesburg, street barriers are put out for people to enjoy block parties. Besides music venues, students can do many activities to be taken away from the hassles of college life.

Over the past couple of years Hattiesburg has grown in size, which in turn has accommodated new buildings and attractions. In 2005, The Grand Movie Theater was opened for service. "I like going there with friends to hang out," said Justin Nichols, a theatre major from Jackson, Mississippi. "Going to watch a movie is a healthy way to spend my free time."

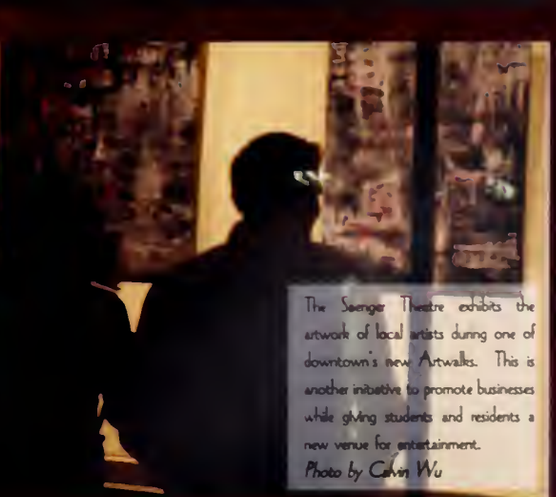
Students have many options when it comes to finding afternoon/night activities in town. "Night life has always been a big part of my culture," said Glynnis Holloman sophomore international major from Ramstein-Miesenbach, Germany. "As a college student I know I would go insane eventually if I didn't take a break."

Story by Jennifer Vital
Background Photo by Calvin Wu

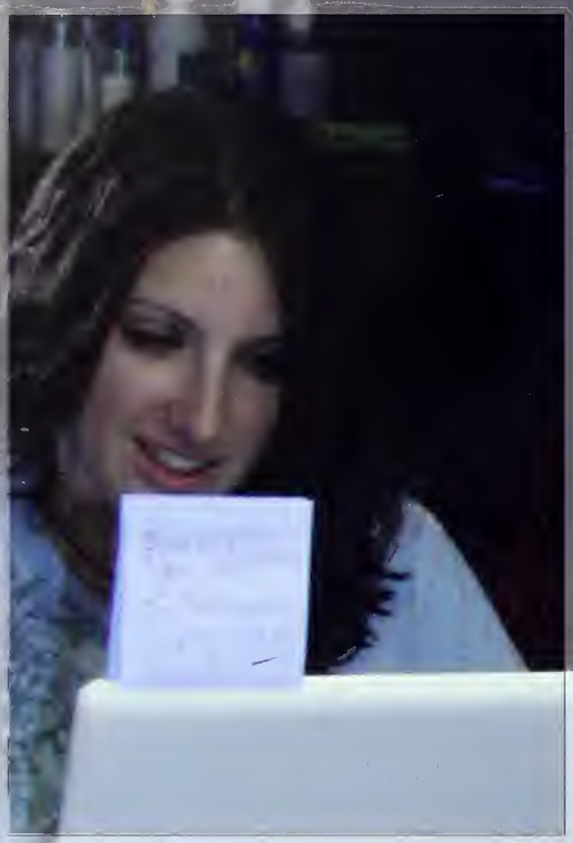


Sam Zeanah, a junior entertainment industry major from Gulf Shores, Alabama, plays sweet melodies to the crowd with his band Southpaw. The fraternity scene provides another outlet for students to enjoy good music and people without leaving campus.
Photo by Elizabeth Maloy



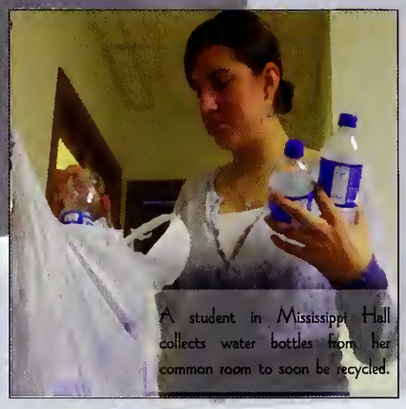


The Seenger Theatre exhibits the artwork of local artists during one of downtown's new Artwalks. This is another initiative to promote businesses while giving students and residents a new venue for entertainment.
Photo by Calvin Wu

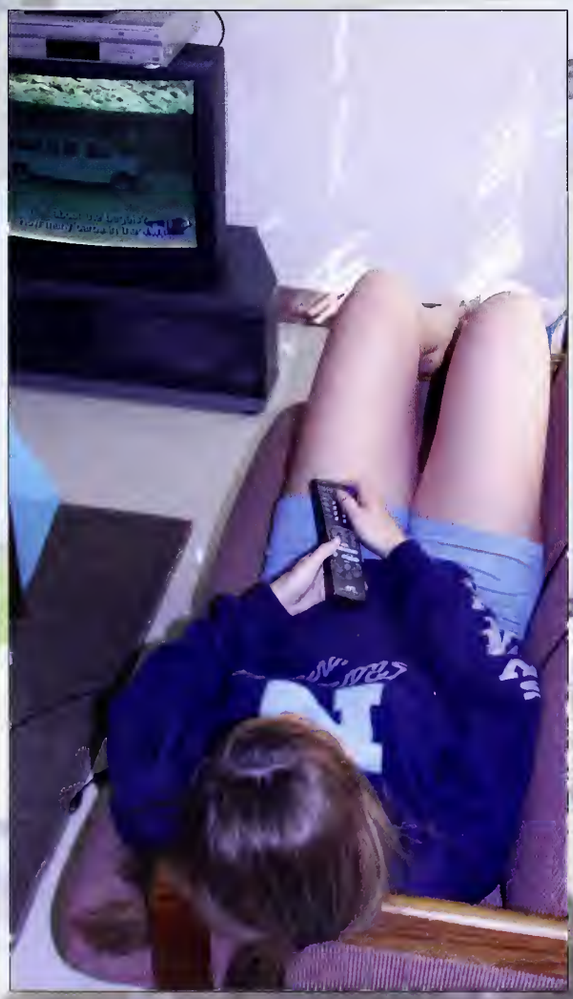




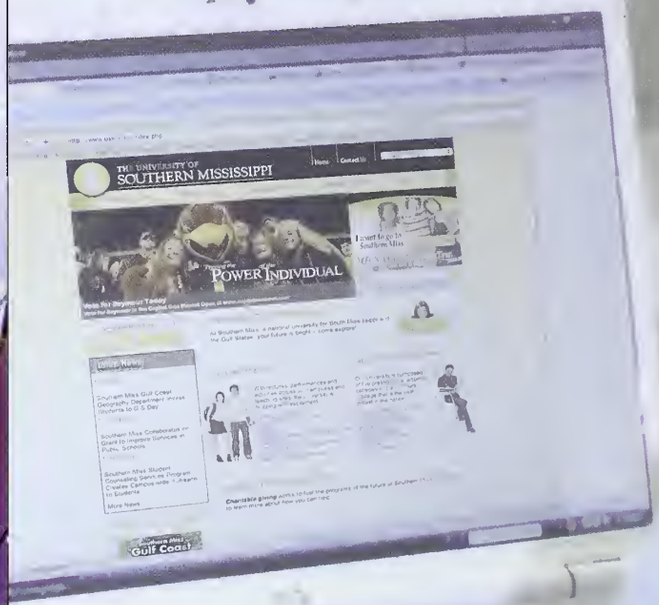
Michael Napier, a freshman history major from New Orleans, Louisiana decides to utilize his bed rather than his desk while studying.



A student in Mississippi Hall collects water bottles from her common room to soon be recycled.



Janet Thompson, a freshman business management major from Slidell, Louisiana, relaxes and watches television after a long day of class.



Zoe Newman, a freshman from Long Beach, Mississippi sits at her desk in Wilbur Hall navigating through the Southern Miss website.

All Photos by Briana Dekemel

LIVING & LEARNING

adapting to residence life

It's an unforgettable feeling: from that first step onto the campus, there is an electric feeling. For most, the experience of living on campus is a time of firsts—their first time away from home, their first time living with a roommate, or even the unparalleled joy of that first laundry day. There can be no doubt: residence life is a chance for growth and an overall world-expanding experience.

Southern Miss offers campus housing to a number of students at all levels from freshman to senior alike, with ever-growing plans to expand available housing. This year alone has seen the advent of the Village—a community housing project for Southern Miss' sororities that opened in August. By January, the Village will be expanded to include a sixty-bed residence hall for upper class women on scholarships.

Plans are also being made for more long-term renovations of student housing: "We've been having meetings about a new complex, around six new buildings, with the goal of replacing Elam, Bond, and Vann," said Gary Kimble, the Senior Associate Director of Residence Life. "We've tried to create an aggressive plan for replacing old housing."

The planned complex would house over 900 students while creating more attractive and functional green space, a constant goal in the campus' master plan. The proposed expansion should be well underway by 2009.

The future isn't being planned at the expense of the present: work is underway to maintain the quality of living on campus, and the students are responding well: "My overall experience with residence life has been great—of course there have been some little downfalls, but the high points definitely outweigh the low," said Matthew Gilliam, a freshman photojournalism major from Hattiesburg, Mississippi.

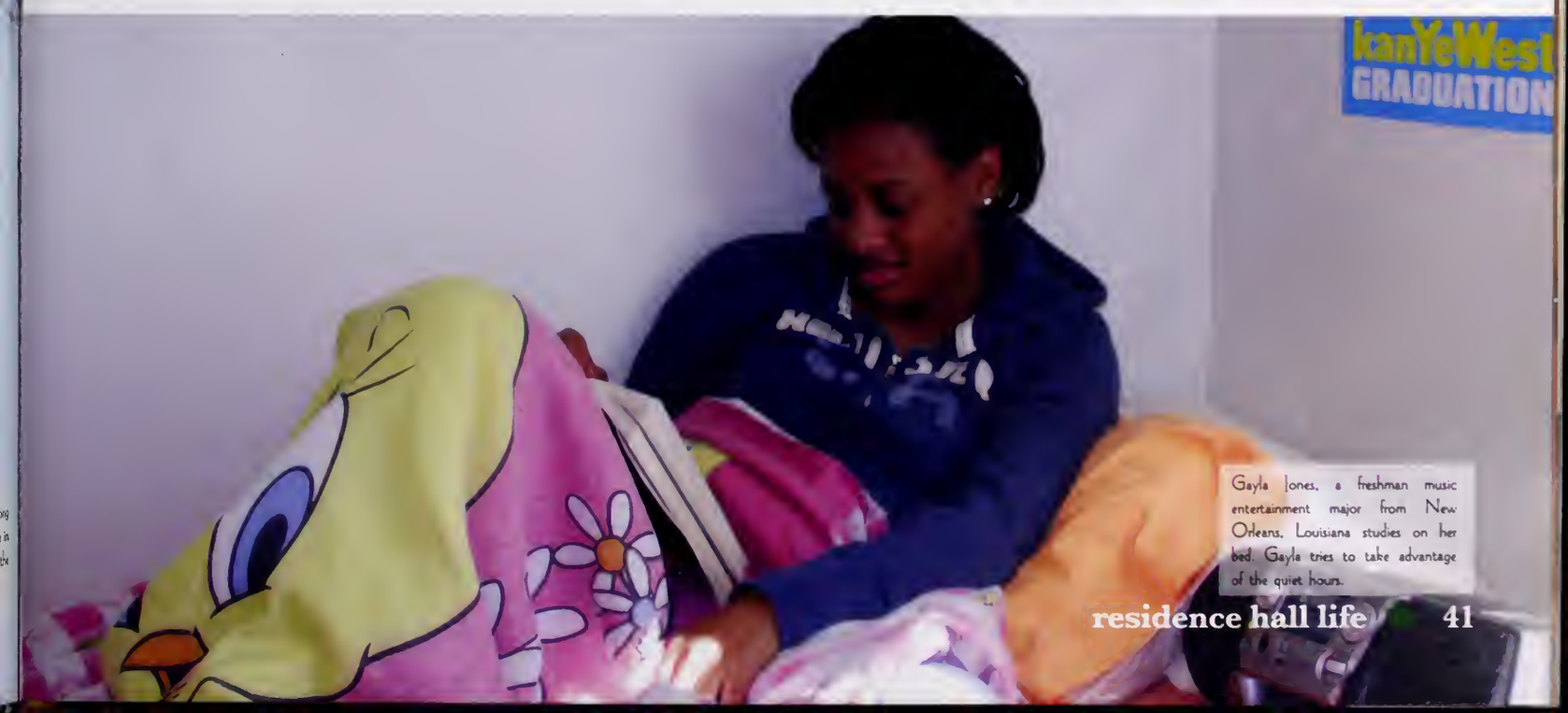
This school year also marked the beginning of a new program called the Year2Initiative, which brings together a group of sophomore students in McCarty Hall. The hope is that by fostering a sense of community among these students that they will be more able and likely to succeed in college.

College is a time of learning, not just in class but in every moment of life. Looking back on her experience with residence life, Jy'Syria Selmon, a senior curriculum and special education major from Natchez, Mississippi said: "I've learned a lot, matured a lot…just being away from has helped me to become responsible for taking care of myself; it really has helped me to grow into who I am now."

Story by Elliott Freeman



Janet Thompson laughs at a humorous website as she surfs the internet.



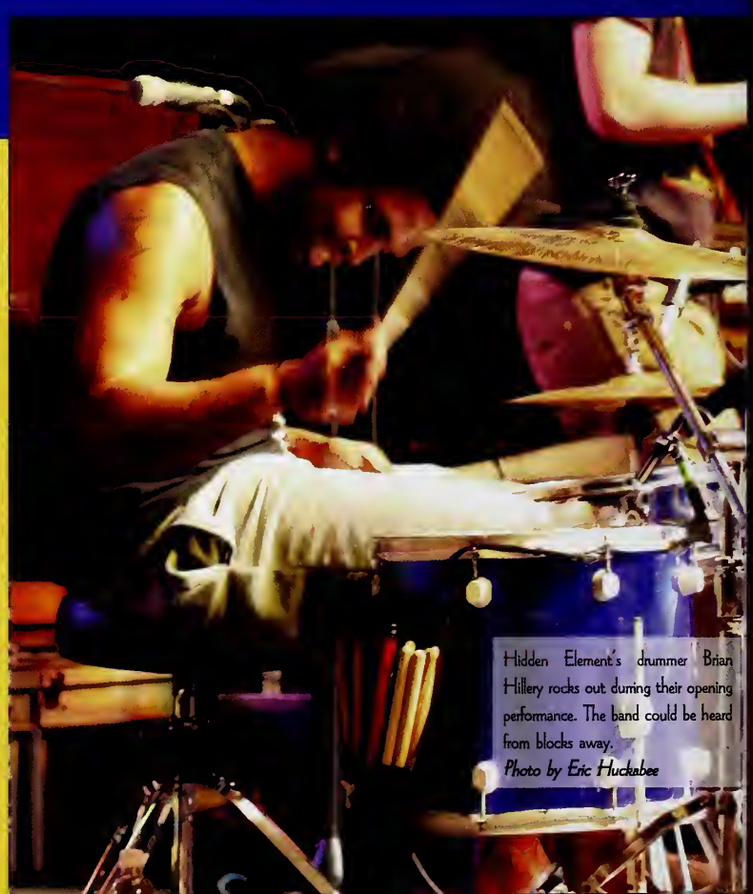
Gayla Jones, a freshman music entertainment major from New Orleans, Louisiana studies on her bed. Gayla tries to take advantage of the quiet hours.

"the CROWD gets BIGGER every year"

Robert Randolph takes the night away as the headlining act at Eaglepalooza.
Photo by Eric Huckabee



Rap icon Eve presented a soulful performance highlighting the evening and adding a diverse music selection to the audience.
Photo by Eric Huckabee



Hidden Element's drummer Brian Hillery rocks out during their opening performance. The band could be heard from blocks away.
Photo by Eric Huckabee



Hidden Element lead vocalist sets the standard for the entertainment to come. The band opened with hits from Rage Against the Machine and Linkin Park.
Photo by Eric Huckabee

Ain't *Nothin'* Wrong With That!

eaglepalooza 2007

Since the inaugural Eaglepalooza in 2004, Southern Miss students have crowded into downtown Hattiesburg for a night of music and fun in the crisp fall air of Mississippi. Surrounded by darkened buildings and a plethora of vendors, thousands of people clustered together to see the latest acts to grace the university, with past attractions including the likes of Gavin DeGraw, Dashboard Confessional, Mya, Pat Green, and Sister Hazel.

This year's fair included the Grammy-winning rapper/actress Eve and Robert Randolph and the Family Band, a group that marries a spiritual message with an urban edge, with a dash of pedal steel drum to taste. Eaglepalooza also featured Hidden Element, an alternative rock band from Alabama.

"It's really awesome to be outside in a different environment," said Noelle Alexander, a freshman general studies major from Gulfport. "The crowd was so enthused and everyone really got into the music, even the people who weren't familiar with Robert Randolph and the Family Band."

Wesley Tanner, a freshman English major from Jackson, Mississippi agreed. "The crowd was great," he said. "I'd heard about Eaglepalooza. I know they had Dashboard here a few years ago, and the crowd gets bigger every year. It is great that it's in a seperate environment from campus."

Indeed. Eaglepalooza is growing more every year. With as many as eight thousand students attending, plus visitors from Hattiesburg and surrounding areas, this music mini-fest is becoming a genuine draw for the area. The concert was, as always, free and the Student Government Association—who sponsors and organizes the event every year—even arranged shuttles from campus to the site for those who needed transportation accommadations.

"It was really big," Alexander said. "I hope it keeps getting bigger. It's already packed, but I think it's going to get to a point where you can't even move."

"The musical acts will keep getting bigger as the event grows," Tanner said. "It's not hard to envision it becoming something even greater, attracting people from across the area. It's easy to get excited about the future of Eaglepalooza."

Story by Bradley Warshauer



In only its fouth year, Eaglepalooza has become a tradition that continues to intrigue southern Miss and the Hattiesburg area.
Photo by Calvin Wu

Capturing the Crown

Miss USM Pageant

The Miss University of Southern Mississippi scholarship pageant started more than sixty years ago as an annual Bathing Beauty contest held around the college swimming pool. In 1947, Sonye Jordan was named top Bathing Beauty, establishing a tradition and the title that has since become the Miss University of Southern Mississippi Pageant.

Five women competed for the chance to capture the crown and title of 2008's Miss USM on Friday, February 22 in the Mannonni Performing Arts Center. Freshmen Keona Anderson, Kristen Turnage, Virgina Zitzelberger, sophomore Jennifer Johnson, and junior Emily Gadilhe all competed in five categories, including: off- stage interview, on-stage interview, evening wear, swimsuit, and talent.

"My favorite thing about the pageant was getting to know all the girls. Everyone is so nice and we all get along really well," said Jennifer Johnson, a dance performance and choreography major from Meridian, Mississippi. Jennifer was second alternate in the pageant and won a $500 scholarship and the Best in Swimsuit award.

The spirit award voted on by all the contestants, was awarded to Virgina Zitzelberger, a nursing major from Gautier, Mississippi. The Director's Award was given to Keona Anderson, a broadcast journalism major from Cleveland, Mississippi. Mike Mitchell, Associate Dean of Students was the Pageant Advisor, and Gail Sims, a junior biological sciences major from Meridian, Mississippi was Pageant Director.

After a long night of laughs and tears, Katelyn Ellzey, the 2007 Miss University of Southern Mississippi, handed off the crown. Kristen Turnage, an elementary education major from Gulfport, Mississippi won Best in Talent, first alternate and the $700 scholarship, but the crown and the $1,500 scholarship were awarded to Emily Gadilhe, a microbiology and pre-med major from Birmingham, Alabama.

Story by Brettany Payne

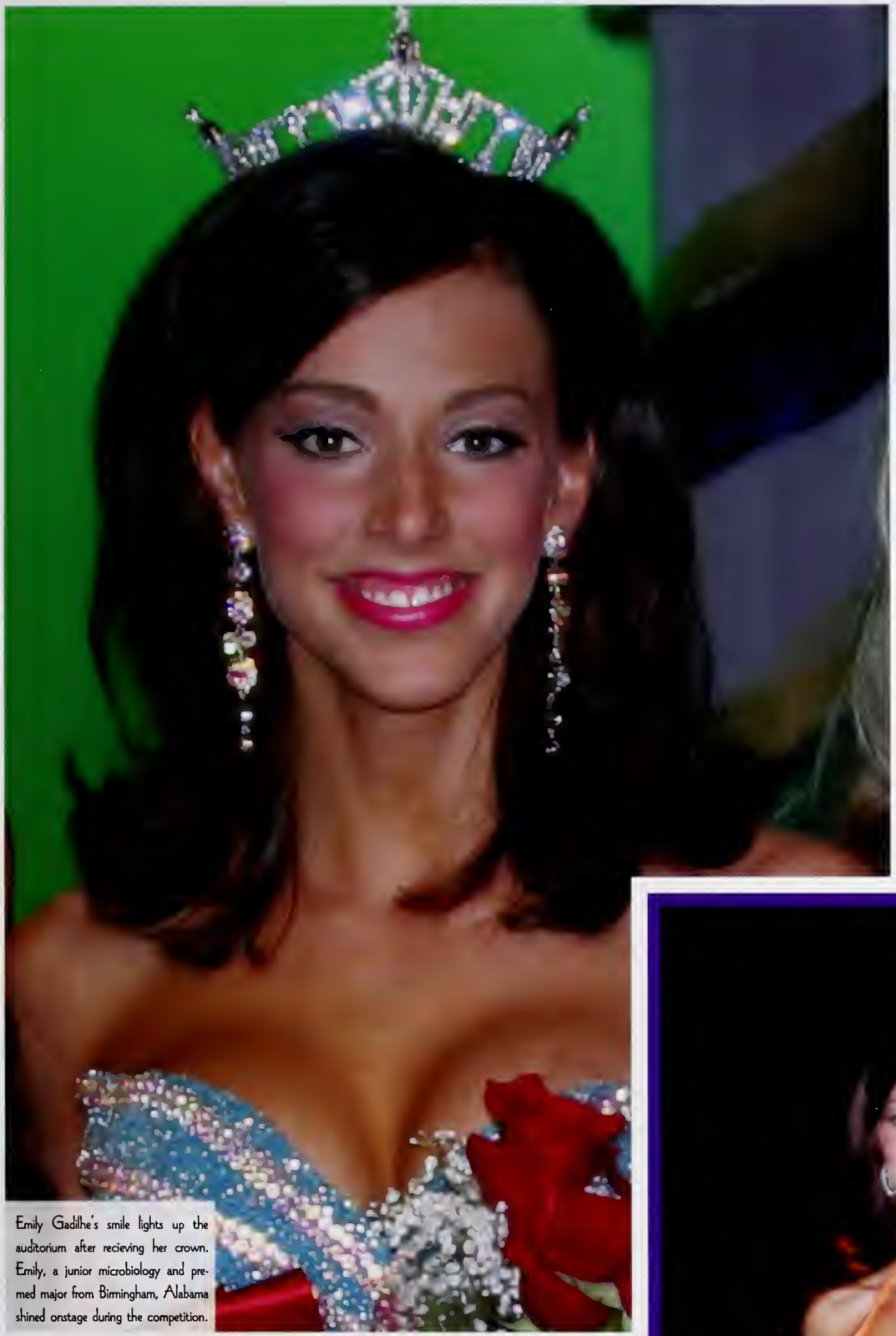


Keona Anderson, a freshman broadcast journalism major from Cleveland, Mississippi fixes her lip gloss in the dressing-room mirror before going onstage.

All Photos by Brettany Payne

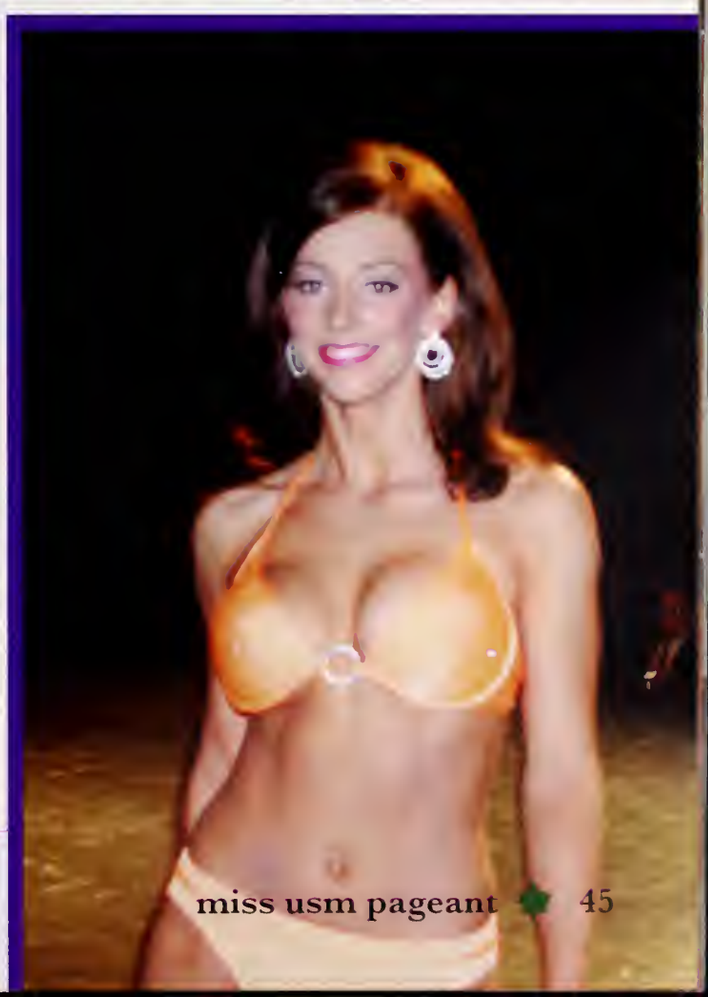


All of the contestants embrace the Mardi Gras theme as they pose for a quick photo with their masks.



Emily Gadilhe's smile lights up the auditorium after recieving her crown. Emily, a junior microbiology and pre-med major from Birmingham, Alabama shined onstage during the competition.

Emily Gadilhe



INTRAMURALS

competition at its best

The University of Southern Mississippi's intramural sports program is an exceedingly action-packed and competitive program with more than forty sports including flag-football, softball, racquetball, basketball, bowling, volleyball, and tennis. "I really enjoy intramural sports because it allows you to be competitive but still have fun at the same time," said Nicholas Stiles, a freshmen administration of justice major from Thurmont, Maryland. Nicholas is a member of Delta Tau Delta Fraternity and participates on their intramural football, dodgeball, and basketball teams.

The intramural sports program is designed to match equally skilled organizations in various activities to meet their physical as well as recreational needs. All intramural sports are offered through the Payne Center under the Department of Recreational Sports. Recreational sports are open to all Southern Miss students and are a great way to stay physically fit and to meet new people.

Students compete in team, individual and dual competitions in fraternity, sorority, men and women's residence, men and women's independent and co-recreational divisions. "I try to play every intramural sport offered. It's all about trying different things and basically having fun with what you do. I feel like being able to play intramural sports gives former athletes a chance to still show their competitive side," said Nathan Herrin, a freshman general studies major from Purvis, Mississippi.

"As far as teammates go, I can honestly say that after each sporting season is over I feel closer to the guys that were on my team," said Herrin. "The game itself brings everyone together because we all share at least that one interest, which is the love of the game."

Story by Brettany Payne



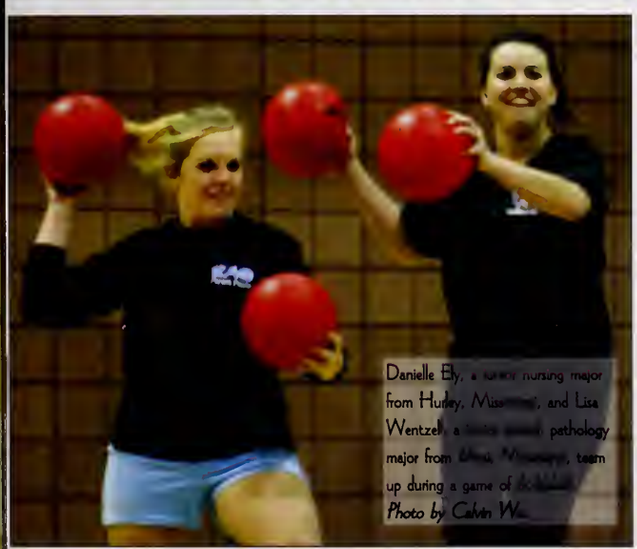
Seth Hester, a senior finance major from Hattiesburg, Mississippi, throws a strike at Hub Lanes.
Photo by Chrisy Dyess



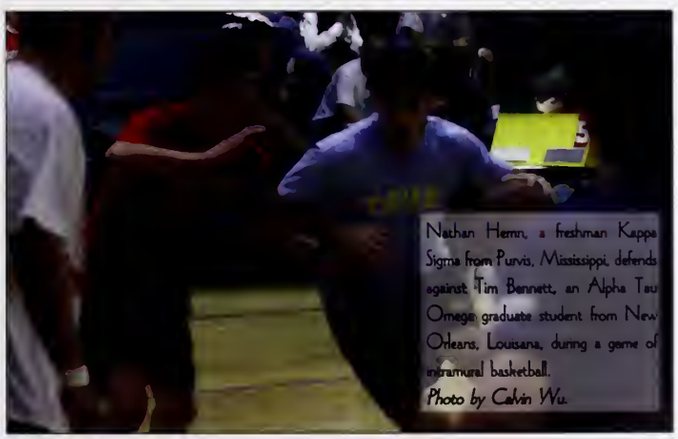
Adam Baxter, a senior forensic psychcology major from Gulfport, Mississippi, hurls a dodgeball accross the court at the opposing team.
Photo by Calvin Wu.



Senior Justin Harris, a journalism major from Ama, Louisiana, catches a touchdown against Mississippi State's intramural flag football team.
Photo by Christopher Bostick.



Danielle Ely, a [illegible] nursing major from Hurley, Mississippi, and Lisa Wentzel, a [illegible] pathology major from [illegible], Mississippi, team up during a game of [illegible].
Photo by Calvin Wu.



Nathan Herrin, a freshman Kappa Sigma from Purvis, Mississippi, defends against Tim Bennett, an Alpha Tau Omega graduate student from New Orleans, Louisana, during a game of intramural basketball.
Photo by Calvin Wu.

The Next Step

graduate student life

Graduate students make up about a seventh of the student body at Southern Miss. These students have decided to go back to school to learn more about what interests them, to open up more doors, or to change their field of study completely.

The life of a grad student is very different from that of an undergraduate. Grad students spend more time on coursework outside of class, and classes are set up in a way that lets them focus more on their subject.

Jonathan Thomas, a graduate student in the history department, said, "The structuring of time that the graduate schedule gives me really encourages my professional growth. I enjoy it because all the things I studied as an undergrad I now get to study more in-depth."

Grad students get to take a more active role in class discussions. They receive more hands-on experience and learn more about the research aspects of their field. All this hard work pays off.

Amie Eoff, who is getting her master's degree in theatre, said, "It is more challenging and time-consuming, but because it's so specific to what you will be doing the rest of your life, it makes up for the fact that you don't have much free time."

To help give them more knowledge and practical experience in their fields, some graduate students are awarded assistantships. Some of these students teach classes or assist professors, while others use the skills they are learning to help out departments on campus.

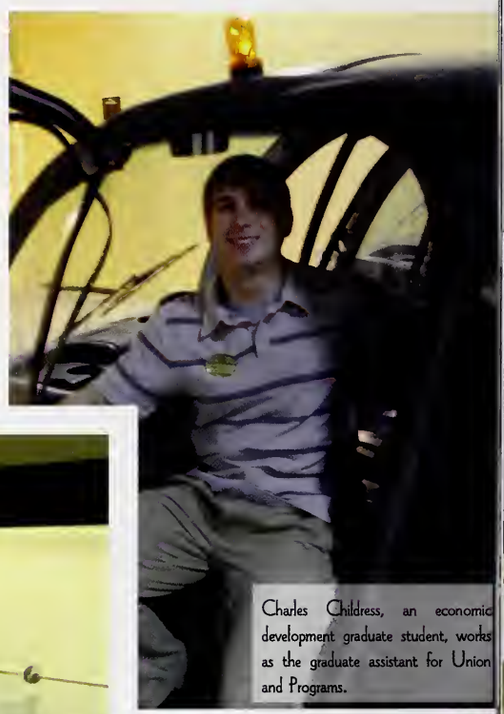
Jacob Seal, a public relations major, works as a graduate assistant in the College of Arts and Letters. "In my assistantship, I get to write news releases, design fliers and posters, and do other publicity-related activities," said Seal. Assistantships also help pay for tuition, making it easier for students to concentrate on their schoolwork.

"There's definitely a higher level of responsibility that comes with it," said Seal. "In the bachelor's program the professors tend to give you a step-by-step guide to the material. When you get to grad school, though, it's more dependent on the student's personal motivation and their own efforts to research and study the material."

Choosing whether or not to go to grad school is a tough decision to make, but for the students who go, the professional, academic, and personal growth they experience are worth it. Grad school allows students to focus on what really interests them without having to worry about taking classes in other majors, and allows more one-on-one time with professors.

When asked about her graduate experience, Eoff said, "Going to grad school has been the perfect opportunity for me to hone my craft in a comfortable learning environment in which it is okay to make mistakes."

Story Submitted by Chris Deschamp



Charles Childress, an economic development graduate student, works as the graduate assistant for Union and Programs.



Adam York, a polymer science graduate student, works on his research project using a rotary evaporator in the Shelby Thames Polymer Science Building.



Charles Childress aligns a frame containing portraits of all the Union and Programs staff. Childress manages the gameroom as well as the payroll for Union and Programs employees.



Chris Harris, a polymer science graduate student, conducts a demonstration with liquid nitrogen.







Chris Harris examines a round-bottom flask. Harris is conducting research on attaching sugars to polymers, which could lead to enhanced contact lenses.

Chris Harris leaves the lab after a long day's work with his wife Lacey Harris, a polymer science and biology double major from Kiln, Mississippi.
All Photos by Jaime McKercher



This reverent graduate proceeds toward the stage to receive her degree in the Reed Green Coliseum.



Dr. Margot Hall leads the procession of administrators to the stage to take their seats.



Dr. Martha Saunders shakes hands with a very excited graduate as she receives her degree on stage. Dr. Saunders celebrated her first commencement ceremony as president.

A Journey's End

fall commencement

Tuition: two thousand four-hundred and fifty-seven dollars. Housing: one thousand five hundred and nine dollars. A meal plan: one thousand one hundred and eighty five dollars. Graduating with an excellent education, life-long friends, and memories: PRICELESS.

"Graduation is my favorite day of the year because it is the day that we celebrate what we're all about at the University of Southern Mississippi. I can't wait to see all the graduates," said Dr. Martha Saunders in her president's blog. The University of Southern Mississippi's fall commencement ceremony was held on December 14th, in two ceremonies inside Reed Green Coliseum.

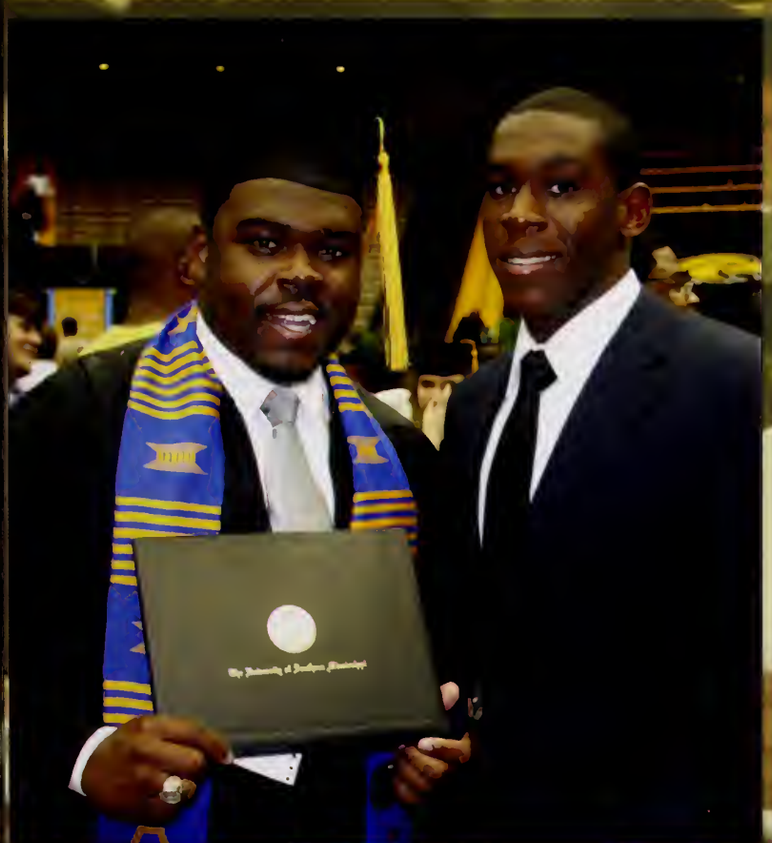
The College of Health, College of Arts and Letters and University Libraries started at one-thirty and students from the College of Business, College of Education and Psychology, and College of Science and Technology graduated at six-thirty. Commencement is a very critical time in every student's life.

"I was honestly so happy to finally finish, but there was never a doubt in my mind that I wasn't going to graduate. At times I would even forget I was graduating because I was so focused on accomplishing the pre-requisites I needed for graduate school," said Eric Brundidge, a senior graduating with a degree in sports management with a minor in business administration from Biloxi, Mississippi.

Nearly thirteen hundred students were candidates for degrees at the fall commencement ceremony. The Southern Miss Department of Medical Technology and Department of Military Science also held special recognition ceremonies for their graduates. The Department of Military Science held their pinning ceremony for commissioning of Army and Air Force officers in the R.C. Cook Union, while the Department of Medical Technology held their ceremony in the R.C. Cook Union Hall of Honors.

Robert McRae, a senior from Hattiesburg, Mississippi graduating with a degree in management and marketing, said, "I was extremely excited about graduating, but most of my excitement steamed from the fact that my younger brother was there to experience it with me. I pride myself on leading by example, and my graduation will inspire him to also finish college and go even further with his education."

Story by Brettany Payne





Recent graduate Robert McRae shows off his degree while posing with his brother Steven McRae, a freshman Luckyday Scholar.
All Photos by Brettany Payne

Remembering the past
Planning for the future
the ten year plan

Looking around Southern Miss, the evidence of growth is everywhere. Every day, the addition to the Rock comes closer and closer to completion while the Trent Lott building continues its progression from a skeletal state to a beautiful edifice. But for every bit of growth that is occurring right now, there is much more on the horizon.

The university's Master Campus Facility Plan, also known as the 10 Year Plan, is a collection of these goals. The projects set out in the 10 Year Plan will serve to improve the image of the university and really allow Southern Miss to become one of the most remarkable universities in the nation.

There are several guiding principles established in the plan. The historic buildings on campus must be preserved and open spaces are not only to be left alone, but enhanced. This is an issue that Claire Parker, a freshman international business major from Biloxi, Mississippi, was worried about.

"It will be nice to have new buildings, but we need to make sure we keep the greenery on campus that makes it so beautiful." The plan also intends to make sure that new buildings compliment current structures, that the campus is developed as a learning environment, that modern technology is integrated throughout the campus, and that strategic growth practices are implemented, among other things.

The 10 Year Plan was created to bring many amazing things to Southern Miss that will improve the university for students, faculty, and visitors alike. Among these proposed amenities are two long awaited parking garages, which will tentatively be located near the Rock and along 4th Street. These parking structures are expected to add an additional 750 parking spaces and 900 parking spaces, respectively.

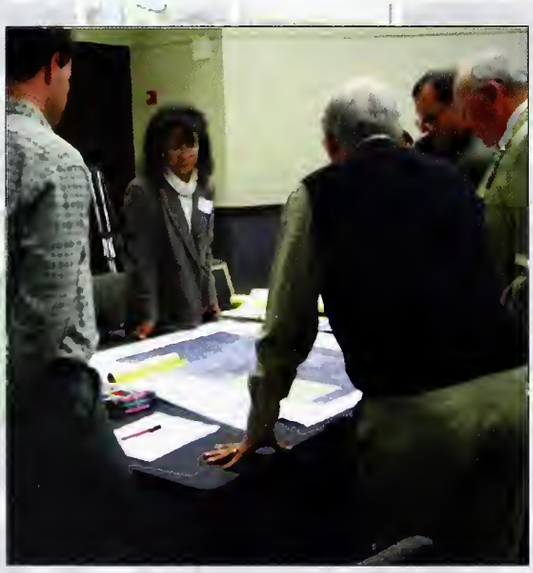
"I think it's great that the parking garage is actually going to be a reality," said Michael Williams, a junior film major from West Point, Mississippi. "There have just been so many rumors about whether it was actually going to be built or not and where it was going to go, it's a relief to see that it's going to happen."

Another major amenity that the 10 Year Plan is bringing to Southern Miss is an increase in the amount of housing available on campus and an overall improvement of the housing conditions. In addition to more housing, the university also plans on building a hotel on campus near the planned 4th Street parking garage.

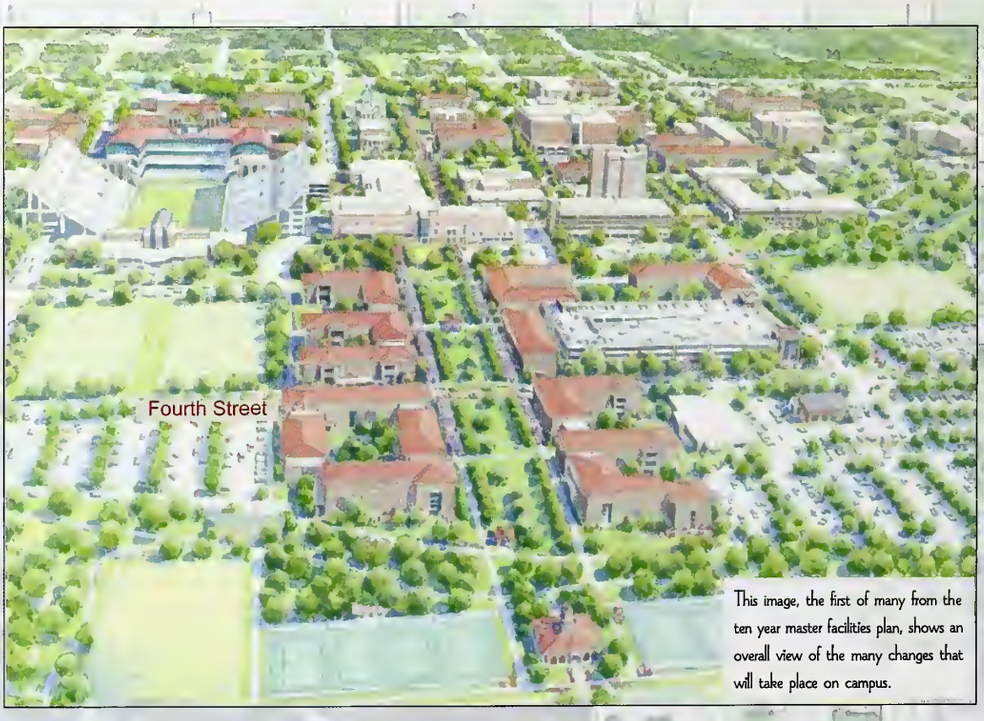
"I think the on campus hotel is a great idea. It will provide a place to stay for people coming in for conferences or teams coming in for games," said Paige McGraw, a senior mass communications and journalism major from Centreville, Mississippi.

There are also several other proposed buildings and features in the 10 Year Plan, including a recreational sports facility, a recreational pavilion, many more places for students to hang out and relax, a new Education and Psychology building, and improvements to many of the current buildings on campus. These changes will improve the look, functionality, and overall feel of Southern Miss for many generations to come.

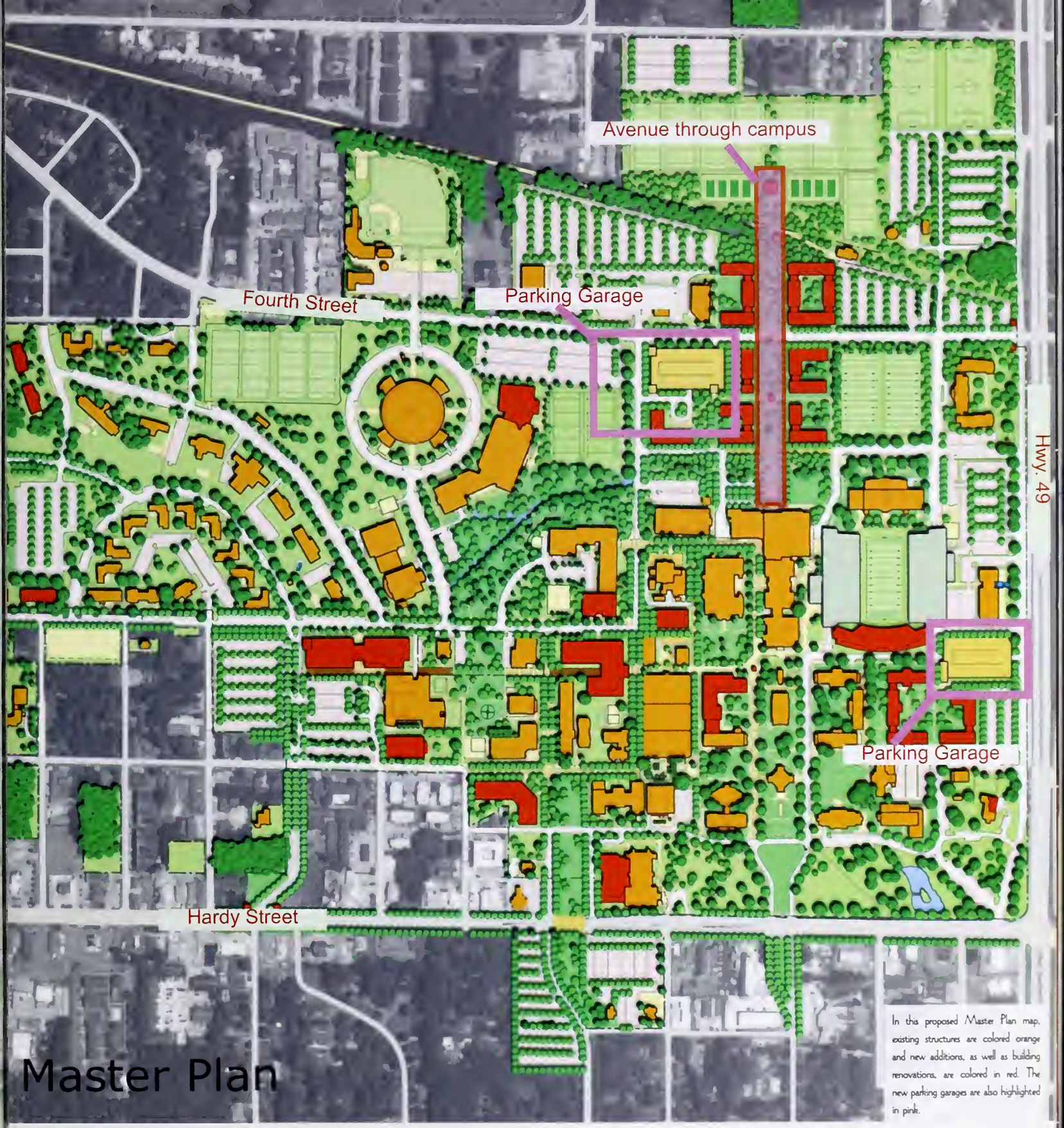
Story by Alan Wheat



The Master Planning committee meets to go over presentation materials.
All Photos from the Master Facilities Plan located on USM.edu homepage

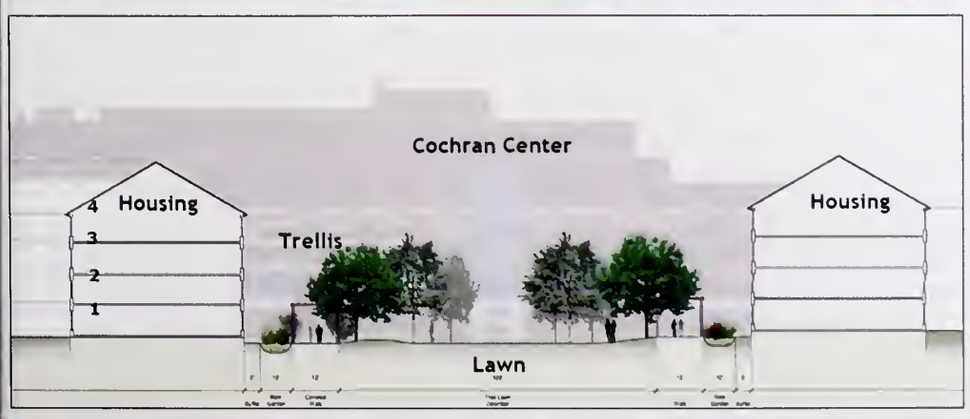


This image, the first of many from the ten year master facilities plan, shows an overall view of the many changes that will take place on campus.



Master Plan

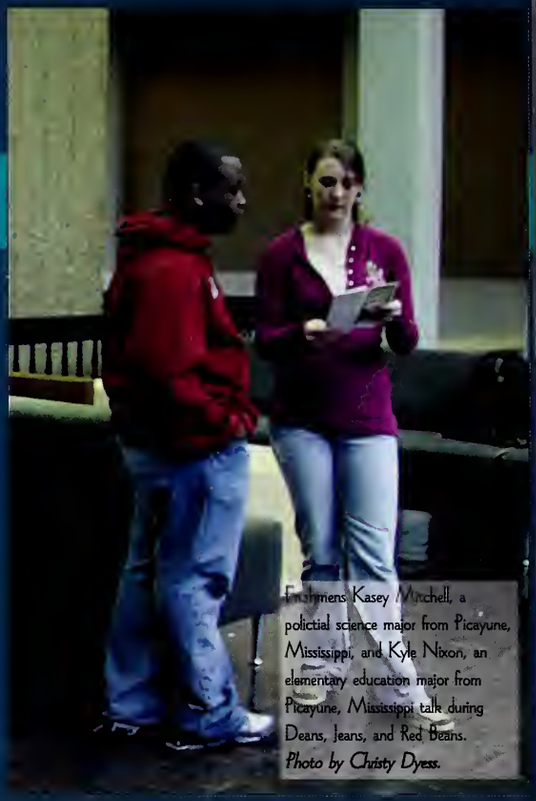
In this proposed Master Plan map, existing structures are colored orange and new additions, as well as building renovations, are colored in red. The new parking garages are also highlighted in pink.



This image shows a future pathway through the middle of campus starting from a proposed recreation pavillion and leading to the Thad Cochran Center. This avenue is highlighted in pink on the above map.



Frantz Salomon, a junior music major from Chicago, Illnois sings "Sway" at Karoake Night sponserd by UAC. *Photo by Calvin Wu.*

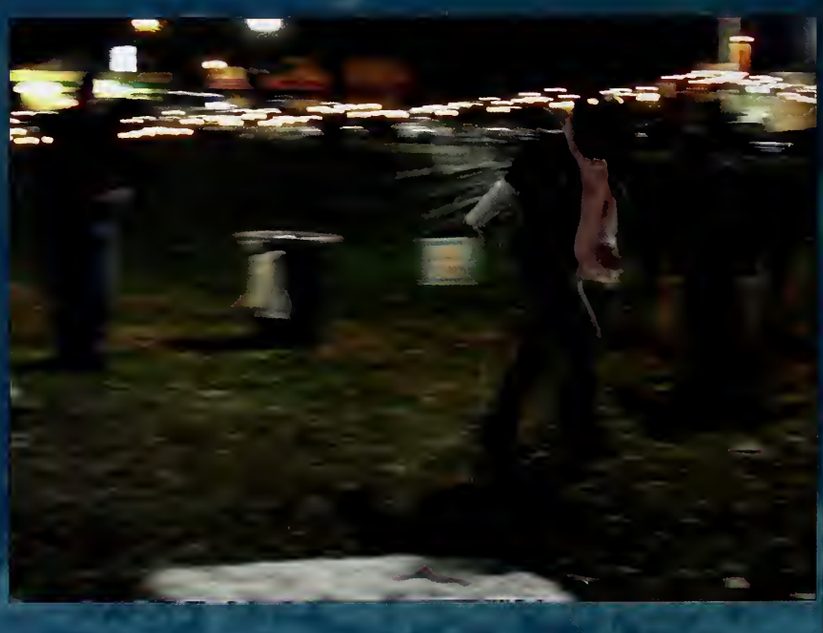


Freshmens Kasey Mitchell, a polictial science major from Picayune, Mississippi, and Kyle Nixon, an elementary education major from Picayune, Mississippi talk during Deans, Jeans, and Red Beans. *Photo by Christy Dyess.*

The Stage Monkeys perform in front of an excited crowd of students during GEWW Remix. *Photo by Calvin Wu.*



A student gets hit by a snowball while her back is turned during Fire and Ice. *Photo by Calvin Wu*



((Wiki-Wiki))

GEWW remix

Designed to help students form connections with their peers and get excited about their university, Golden Eagle Welcome Week, or GEWW, is a tradition for new Southern Miss students. This year, the first ever GEWW Remix aimed to extend this experience to second-semester freshmen and transfer students.

Wynde Fitts, Director of the Office of the First Year Experience at Southern Miss, considers GEWW Remix a positive sign of growth in the student community. "Our community is constantly evolving so we owe it to our students to change programming and expand our offerings in order to meet their needs."

Fitts says that one of the big goals of the event was to help students build a feeling of community early on during their career at Southern Miss.

"We simply wanted to reach students and we did. We made contact with new students and reestablished connections with second semester students."

Danielle Couturie, a junior tourism management major from Harvey, Louisiana, and a member of the GEWW Crew, also shared her thoughts on the event. "Remix was much more lighthearted and not as intense as GEWW, so I feel that students who tend to be more reserved got their chance to shine."

Couturie credits the planning staff for a successful program. "I know that once you have done a GEWW, the only expectations you should have are to have fun and try and make a difference by helping out the students. The Office of the First Year Experience did all of the planning and asked former GEWW Crew members to help with the execution."

Fitts says the event was a successful product of collaboration between the staff at FYE. "GEWW Remix was really the concept and the inspiration of one of the FYE graduate assistants, Cherie Kay Thriffiley. She had an idea, and the rest was simply collaboration and innovation."

That collaboration produced an event that was fun for both student volunteers and staff. "I attended many of the events and had a blast," Couturie said.

Out of all those events, Couturie considers the snow machine one of the most unique and enjoyable parts of the program. "I was curious to see how the snow would be pulled off, but I had faith in the FYE staff members. Once it got going, the students' reaction to the snow was great! Once the snowball fights started and people warmed up, they really enjoyed themselves."

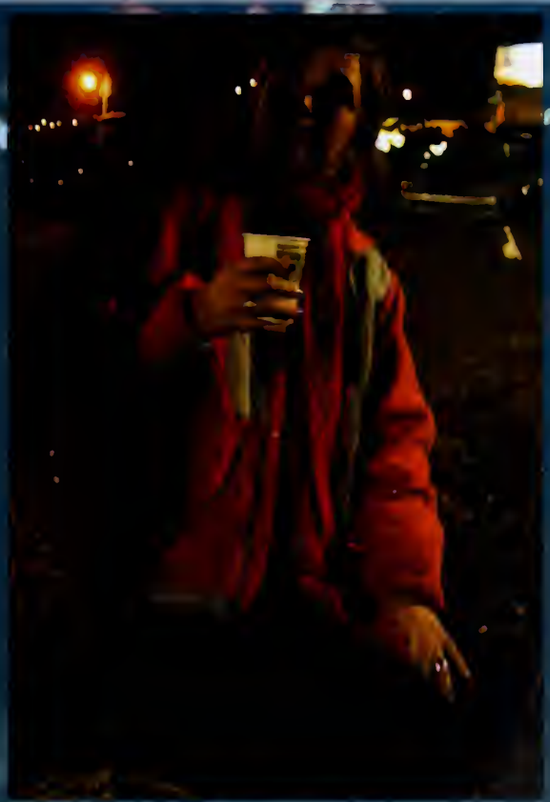
As a result of such positive reactions, Fitts considers the program a success. "I was pleased with the first year and can only hope that this concept will grow and change to best benefit our students. Many of the students made connections, initiated relationships, but more than anything they felt like they mattered."

Story by Jeffrey Guillot

Background Photo by Christopher Bostick



Katie Christansen, a junior medical technology major from Mobile, Alabama, prepares a snow ball to throw during the snow ball fight at the District during Fire and Ice.
Photo by Christopher Bostick.



Junior political science major Kami Mueller from Yorktown, Indiana sips on hot chocolate while talking to new transfer students during Fire and Ice.
Photo by Christopher Bostick.

arts & academics



Photo by Calvin Wu







Southern Miss welcomes President Saunders home







All photos by *Elizabeth Maloy*

Greetings Students!

It's my pleasure to send greetings from The Dome to all of you. As you know by now, Southern Miss is a very special place. It has served as a starting place for many, many successful students before you and will, no doubt, help to shape the direction of your lives. Southern Miss enables us to bring out the best in ourselves for the betterment of our world.

When I meet with students I always try to leave them with three pieces of advice:

First, while you are here, RIDE ALL THE RIDES! We have so many opportunities for enriching your education at Southern Miss. With 280 different student organizations, study abroad programs, internships, service learning and volunteer opportunities, you can find something to complement your interests and academic major. The real work of getting education usually happens outside the classroom. Enjoy. Learn. Grow.

Also, although it should go without saying, PLAN TO GRADUATE! Too often students let challenges and distractions take them away from their main focus: getting a degree. It's important to make the commitment to yourselves and then do what is necessary to meet your educational goals. There are lots of people around campus who were hired to help you be successful. Find them. Use them.

Finally, as students at a public institution, always be mindful that you are getting your education as a result of the vision of people who never had the chance to go to college. Our state made a commitment almost a hundred years ago to make life better by building a school in Hattiesburg to train teachers. That school has evolved from a teacher's college to a state college to a state university to a great national university. Grateful for the vision of those who came before me, I am ever mindful of the opportunities that I was given as a student here. VALUE YOUR EDUCATION!

I wish you well as you complete your educational goals and look forward to seeing you at your graduation.

Southern Miss – To The Top!

Martha Saunders
President

College of Arts & Letters

discover your voice

The College of Arts and Letters is the largest of the five colleges, boasting over 3,000 undergrads, 500 graduate students, and 188 faculty members. Much of Southern Miss' core curriculum is centered around the College of Arts and Letters.

Fifteen different departments and schools compose this diverse college, encompassing the traditional liberal arts: English, history, philosophy, anthropology, religion—and the high arts: theatre, music, dance, and visual arts.

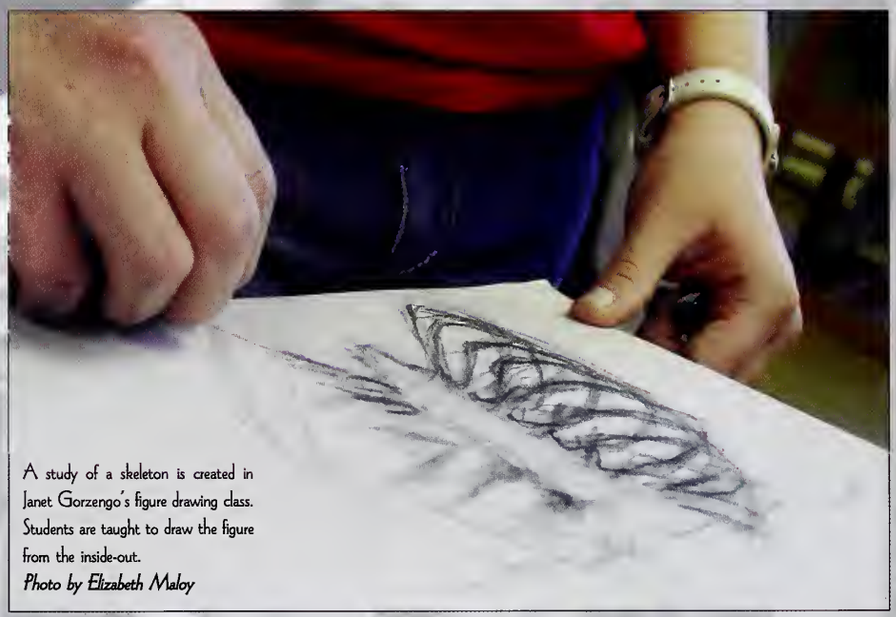
In January 2007, Dr. Denise von Herrmann was promoted from Associate Dean to Dean of the College of Arts and Letters. "We have an incredibly engaged faculty," Dr. von Herrmann said. "I believe we have the best faculty in the world," she said, "they amaze me. I don't know how they do so much with such few resources."

The College of Arts and Letters is also active in the campus community and hosts over 300 public events a year, both on the Hattiesburg and Gulf Coast campuses. The college also created "The Arts Sampler Series," which broadcasts the events on campus they believe will be the most popular.

The college also plays host to the Division of Undergraduate Studies and all of Southern Miss' undeclared students. In this way, the College of Arts and Letters is a gateway to the university at large for many students, "Arts and Letters has really allowed me to expand my creativity, and it really just let me find out who I am," said Jade Reed-Kreis, a sophomore general studies major from Mobile, Alabama aiming to major in English.

Learning, growing, creating: the College of Arts and Letters combines an education in the humanities with a focus on creativity and a holistic understanding of the world.

Story by Tamora McConnell



A study of a skeleton is created in Janet Gorzengo's figure drawing class. Students are taught to draw the figure from the inside-out.
Photo by Elizabeth Maloy



Soldier Carlton McLauren, a sophomore from Hattiesburg, Mississippi, surfs the internet before one of his ROTC training courses begins.
Photo by Elizabeth Maloy



Ashley Lane, a dance major from Long Beach, Mississippi, reaches up into position during her advanced dance class in one of the many department studios.
Photo by Christopher Bostick



Kyle Goddard, a junior art major from Brandon, Mississippi, spreads white compressed charcoal over his Advanced Painting project. Kyle is creating three of these large works which will soon unite as a tryptich.
Photo by Elizabeth Maloy

STUDIO ART
from painting to pottery

From graphic design to painting to pottery, the art department at Southern Miss is a program built on outstanding student performance and reinforced by well-connected faculty and staff prepared to help students grow not only academically, but also personally.

The art department has been a part of Southern Miss since the school's inception in 1910, and according to Susan Fitzsimmons, the department chair, it is this long-standing tradition at the university that acts as the cornerstone for the department's success.

"We have a long history of producing accomplished artists that are recognized and respected," said Fitzsimmons. "Most students have job offers or are already working by graduation."

In addition to a long-standing history, the department boasts some of the most state-of-the-art facilities in the region including the largest iron-pouring facility at a university in the United States. Facilities such as these bring national attention to the department and lead to visits by such well-known artists as Richard Noonas.

According to Fitzsimmons, the department also offers academic opportunities afforded few other places in the region and in the country. The department holds a dual-accredited degree in art education, one of the only programs in the country that allows students to move into a more concentrated study of the visual arts. In addition, the graphic communications program within the department works diligently to pair their students with top design and advertising firms for internships and occupational training.

Aside from the host of academic and facility-based reasons for enrolling in the art department at Southern Miss, many students feel that the close bonds formed between students and faculty members in the department are vital to success in college and in the work force. According to Laura Creekmore, a sophomore painting and drawing major from Brandon, Mississippi, the faculty is one of the primary strengths of the department.

"I enjoy art at Southern Miss because the faculty and staff understand that students are mostly supporting themselves through college and truly understand that aspect of college life," said Creekmore. "They support students on a personal level, still maintain a level of professionalism, and they push students to do their best."

According to Creekmore, the department's faculty and staff, facilities, academic programs, and even the way the course work is organized, all add to the success of the department and allow students to enter Southern Miss as students and emerge as well-developed artists.

"I have learned more than I could have ever imagined," said Creekmore, "my experience here has definitely opened my eyes to how all of the different disciplines connect. It has really helped me put things in perspective."

Story by Chris Mills



Three well-protected art majors participate in the annual iron pour that takes place in the 3-d design studio across 4th Street.
Photo by Calvin Wu



Colby Summerford, a sophomore sculpture major from Hattiesburg, Mississippi cuts a piece of metal with a plasma torch in preparation for his sculpture.
Photo by Calvin Wu

Ronna Sandoval, a junior art major from Picayune, Mississipppi, works on a ceramic piece inspired by architecture.
Photo by Calvin Wu

Kasey Mitchell, a freshmen management and marketing major, examines a photograph taken by Clarence Williams, the Pulitzer Prize-winning photographer.
Photo by William Hatten

Photo by Elizabeth Maloy

DANCE
the art of motion

"I love dance, and that's the only way I can possibly describe it," said Lyss Bourgeois, a freshmen majoring in international business with a minor in dance from Houston, Texas. Like Lyss, many of the dancers at Southern Miss find "love" to be the only word to express their passion for dance. "I'm absolutely in love with it," agreed Quinn Bradley, a freshmen dance major from Coon Rapids, Minnesota. After college Quinn plans on teaching dance as a career. "I'm lucky. I've found something I love and I'm going to get to do it for a living," Quinn said.

On November 1st the dance department had its first fall production in the Mannoni Performing Arts Center. This show was comprised of eight original pieces. Routines were choreographed by members of the department at all levels, from undergraduates to faculty members.

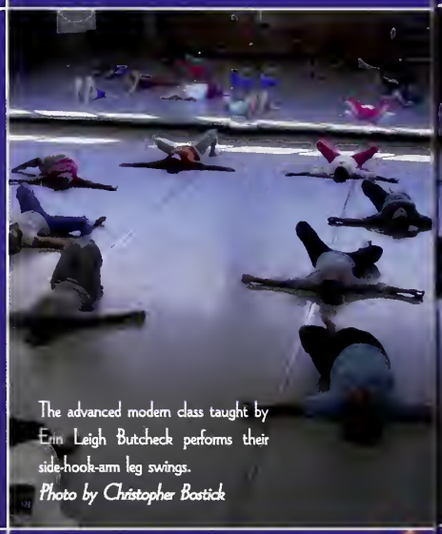
Highlights of the show included a piece by junior performance and choreography major Anna White entitled "Plague." Her choreography was inspired by her fear of bugs and heights, and featured dancers as insects interacting in the wild, swarming and climbing. Stacy Reichman, head of the dance department, created the last piece in the first segment of the show, a dance for four girls that served as the third installment of a six-series piece entitled "Something More."

"I really enjoyed watching the dance show because I've witnessed first-hand how much hard work went into the production. The dance department is a very friendly environment, and I was happy to see my teachers and my classmates celebrated for their work," said Javokco Harris, a freshmen dance education major from Columbus, Mississippi. "The educators are always willing to help you and give you one-on-one time. They all know you by name. They actually get to know you on a personal level." Javokco plans to graduate with a degree in dance education that will allow him to teach dance to children up to the high school level. His ultimate goal in life is to one day own his own dance studio.

The University of Southern Mississippi's dance program was the first in Mississippi to offer the professional B.F.A degree. Course offerings include dance appreciation, dance in cultural context, 20th century dance forms, improvisation, composition, and many more. Students also participate in choreographic research projects in their junior and senior years. The Southern Miss dance program is the only program in the region to offer a dance education K-12 emphasis, and it is an accredited institutional member of the National Association of Schools of Dance.

Dance is an art of motion and impermanence: like a good song, the only proof left of a perfect dance is in the memories of an audience. The study of it combines athleticism with aesthetics in a way that is unique, and Southern Miss has been fortunate to play host to generations of aspiring dancers as they grow and change.

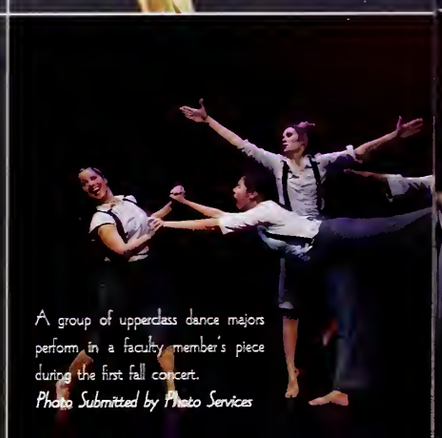
Story by Brettany Payne



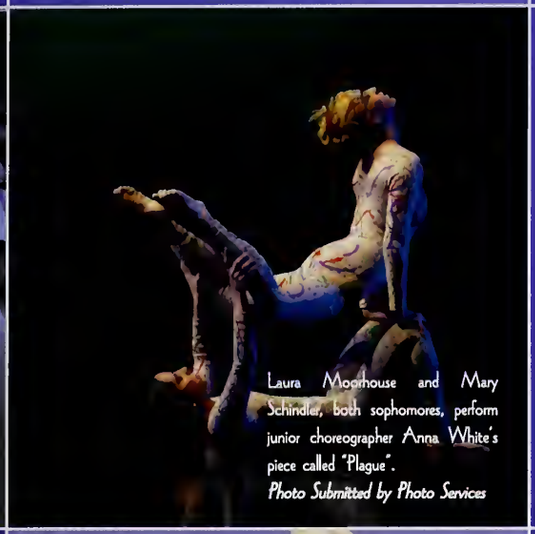
The advanced modern class taught by Erin Leigh Butcheck performs their side-hook-arm leg swings.
Photo by Christopher Bostick







A group of upperclass dance majors perform in a faculty member's piece during the first fall concert.
Photo Submitted by Photo Services



Laura Moorhouse and Mary Schindler, both sophomores, perform junior choreographer Anna White's piece called "Plague".
Photo Submitted by Photo Services

Lauren Soutullo, Katie Geech, Sarah Latza, and Allison Beler, all juniors all developpe as part of their choreographer's dance called "Full Circle"
Photo Submitted by Photo Services

Intermediate dance students warm up to instructor Stacy Reischman's modern barre.
Photo by Christopher Bostick

THEATRE

taking the stage

Theatre is an artistic exploration and celebration of human life. The theater department at Southern Miss embraces risk-taking and builds upon the combined strengths of its artists and craftspeople. "The power of the creative imagination is what drives an extraordinary dynamic in the Southern Miss Department of Theatre and Dance," said Louis Rackoff, Chair of the Department of Theater and Dance.

The programs provide students with opportunities for extensive performance experiences and exposure to visiting professional artists. The theater department offers courses of study centered on theoretical, historical, and academic subjects, as well as performance activities that are designed to develop artistic ability and general cultural awareness.

Theater students in the performance program take classes in the fundamentals of acting and improvisation to sharpen their instincts and timing. Seniors take courses devoted to the audition process, including head-shots, resumes, agents, and so on. The program is an ideal undergraduate degree plan for future directors. Approximately 32 showcase slots are available each year for student-directed projects.

The available course work for design and technical students includes stagecraft, scenic design, stage lighting, advanced stage lighting, stage sound engineering, costume design studio, advanced theatrical makeup, and design and technology laboratories for hands-on experience. The most committed and talented students are given design or assistant design responsibilities for the main stage theatre season or for dance concerts. "I got the opportunity to co-design one of the portions of the Fall Dance Concert," said Crystal Gordon, design and technical major from Carriere, Mississippi. "It was very exciting to see my designs on stage."

At Southern Miss, student artists are expected to work with faculty, staff and other students to produce exciting and effective seasons. As everyone collaborates and learns about as many areas of the theatre as possible, a sense of community is built. Late nights are spent rehearsing a scene, hanging lights or painting scenery. "It's amazing how everyone in the department comes together to create art," said Caleb Blackwell, a theater major from Magee, Mississippi.

Art is nothing without an audience, though, and the theatre department aims to provide the whole campus with cultural experiences. "The range of theatre productions reaches from a contemporary Pulitzer Prize winner to some of the most thrilling classics ever presented," said Rackoff. "Guest artists often join students, faculty and staff in programs. Our season offers wide variety of experiences."

This year's productions included *Doubt*, *Twelfth Night*, *Songs for a New World*, *Our Town*, *Electra*, and *Intimate Apparel*.

The theater department at Southern Miss seeks to provide the best possible education for its students, while emphasizing passion, discipline, and collaboration in the creation of art. Students, faculty, and staff, support each other as they grow as a department and prepare students for careers to enter the professional world.

Story by Jennifer Vital



Matt Standley, a senior theatre major, plays the character named "Captain" in the fall production *Twelfth Night*. He reaches down to comfort Courtney Brown's character, Viola.
Photo by Jaime McKercher



Ardice Cotter, a junior from Mobile, and Je'Nae Howard, a senior theatre major, perform in the fall production *Doubt*.
Photo submitted by Photo Services

Jason Adkins, a graduate student, is mocked by Emily Brown's character 'Maria' in *Twelfth Night*.
Photo by Jaime McKercher

Mason Criswell, a senior theatre major, plays the part of "Feste the Clown" in *Twelfth Night*.
Photo by Jaime McKercher

MUSIC

playing from the heart

Southern Miss takes great pride in its outstanding academic departments, which act as a catalyst of change and growth in the lives of countless students each year. This pride is no less prominent in the music department, which not only educates students, but gives them experiences to build a career upon and acts as an arena of entertainment for peers in other departments.

The music department is one of the oldest departments at the university and has, through the years, become known as the best music program in the state and among the best programs in the Southeast. According to Chandler Stapleton, a sophomore bassoon and piano performance major from Daphne, Alabama, the notoriety of the department is what sparked her interest in attending the University of Southern Mississippi.

"The music department is well known; everyone talks about how great the program at Southern is, and after visiting campus and seeing how important the department was to the university as a whole I knew it was all true," said Stapleton.

According to Whitney Cook, a Junior Music Education major from Sumrall, Mississippi, the prestige of the program is augmented by the development of tight bonds between the members of the department. Students often attend the same classes throughout their tenure in the music department, so it is not unusual for strong friendships to be forged through the years.

"The department gives us a whole other group of friends," said Cook, "within the music department we are all a big family."

The strong bonds formed between students in the music department creates a support network that helps students strive for better performances and an increased level of skill in their musical specialty.

"It is a really close-knit environment," said Jessica Thompson, a junior music education and performance major from Jackson, Mississippi. "You always have someone to go to when a problem arises, no matter what the problem may be."

In addition to providing students with social outlets and support services, the music department also fosters a sense of confidence in performing ability and requires students to perform in front of their peers constantly. The music department organizes orchestral shows, as well as smaller ensemble and chamber group performances, which serve a dual purpose: practice for musicians and entertainment for students.

"I want to perform and be in symphonies professionally one day," said Stapleton. "I want to be confident on stage, and all of the various performing opportunities afforded by the music program really prepare students for such a career choice."

Story by Christopher Mills





The Pride marching band practices one afternoon as they do every day on Pride Field in front of the Payne Center.
Photo by Calvin Wu





Photo by Christy Dyess

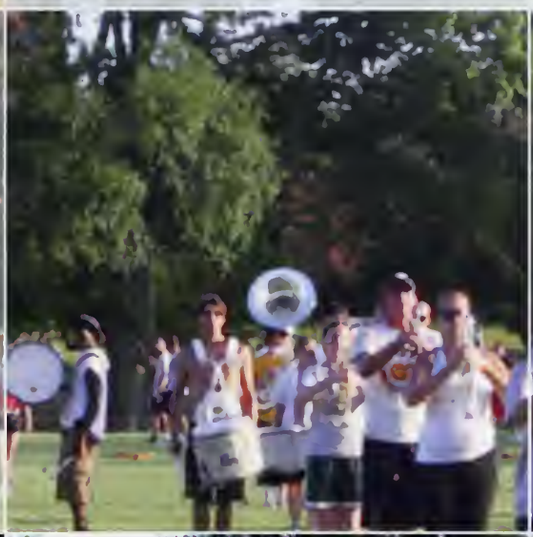


Jeffrey Bates, a junior from Liberty, Mississippi, reads a piece of music in his beginner piano class.
Photo by Christy Dyess

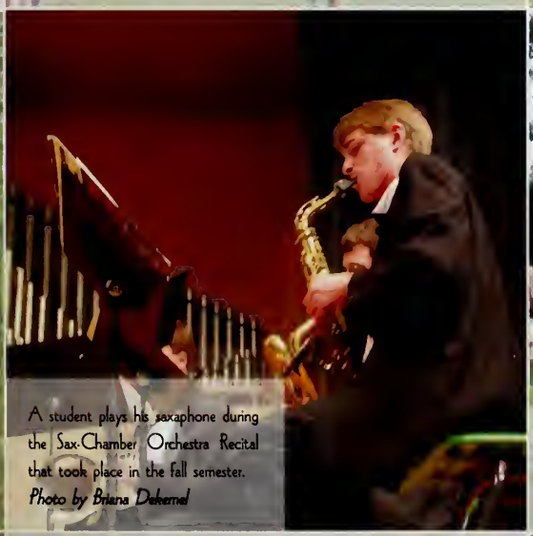


Professsor Fuller conducts his students as they sing in the Mannom Performing Arts Center.
Photo by Franklin Williams









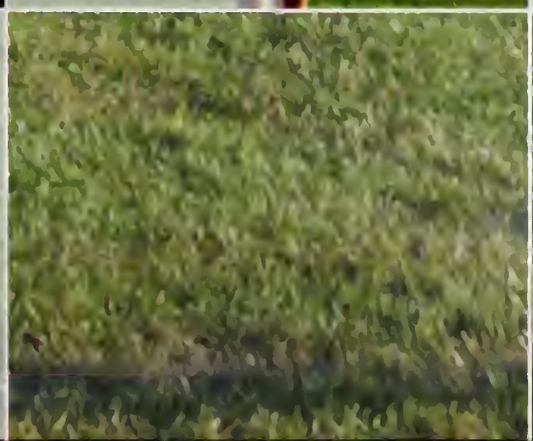
A student plays his saxaphone during the Sax-Chamber Orchestra Recital that took place in the fall semester.
Photo by Briana Dekernel

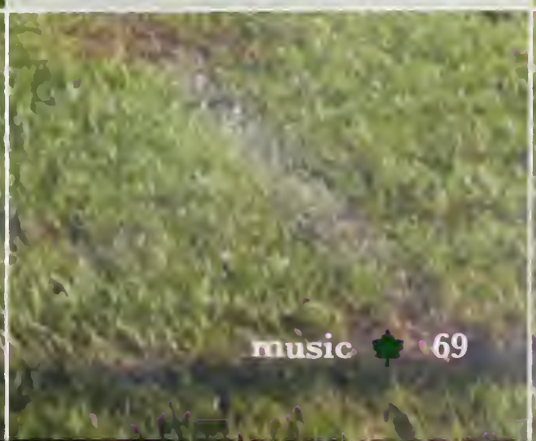


Lauran Assad plays her trumpet during band camp practice on Pride Field.
Photo Submitted by Photo Services









College of & Business & Economic Development

build your future

The College of Business and Economics was created in 1947 as the Division of Commerce, and over the past 60 years it has grown to accommodate more than 2,400 students, graduate and undergraduate alike.

More than ever, the college is "working to strengthen our tourism management program," said Dr. Alvin J. Williams, the college's dean. "We're also still working to get health care marketing presented to the board and strengthen our program in entrepreneurship." In addition, construction is also being finished on the Trent Lott National Center for Excellence in Economic Development and Entrepreneurship.

The college offers degrees in nearly all areas of business, including business administration, economics, fashion merchandising, finance, marketing, tourism management, and even holds special accreditation for its accounting program.

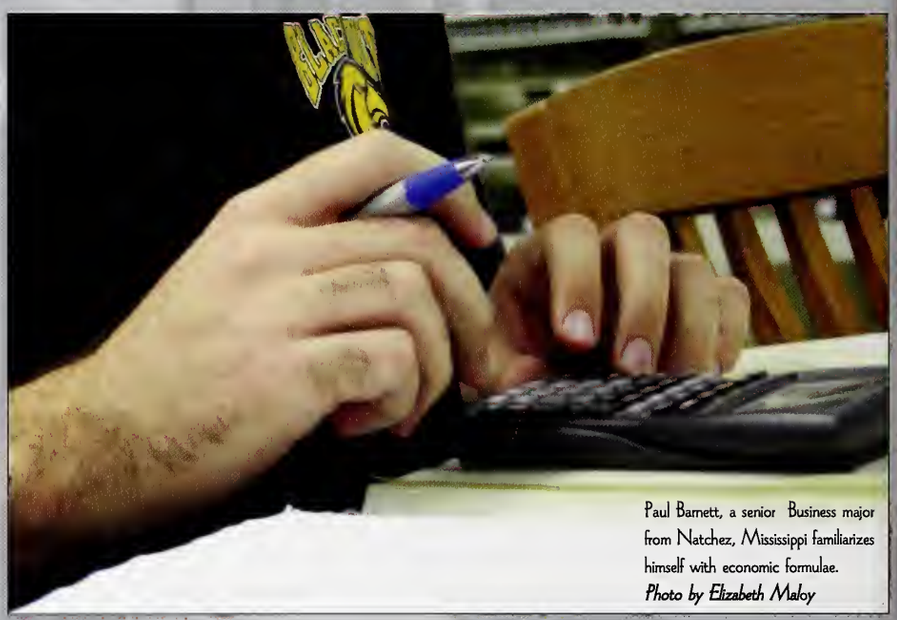
"It's a great program," said Rashanda Barnes, a senior business major, "I haven't had a problem with it since I got here. It gets you prepared for the future."

Bruce Aust would certainly agree: an alumni from the class of 1986 and the executive vice-president of NASDAQ, Aust returned to campus in October to speak with students.

This year, the college has been giving more focus to community projects, like the Center for Economic Education, an outreach program to increase economic literacy among elementary and secondary students while providing economics certification for teachers.

Sixty years and thousands of students later, the College of Business and Economics has certainly grown, shaping future business leaders and being shaped by those leaders in return.

Story by Elliott Freeman



Paul Barnett, a senior Business major from Natchez, Mississippi familiarizes himself with economic formulae.
Photo by Elizabeth Maloy



A sign outside the construction zone shows The Trent Lott National Center for Excellence in Economic Development and Entrepreneurship as it will be at the completion of construction.
Photo by Jaime McKercher



Bruce Aust, a business alumni and the executive vice president of NASDAQ, returns to Southern Miss to speak with faculty and students.
Photo Submitted by the Department of Marketing and Public Relations



Nicholas Carroll, a junior from Florence, Mississippi works on his Finance homework at a cubicle in Cook Library.
Photo by Elizabeth Maloy



An employee of Caliente expertly rolls a delicious burritto. Caliente Grille uses fresh ingredients to make every item on their menu.
Photos by Christopher Bostick

Charles Arinder proudly stands in front of his business. Caliente Grille is located on Hardy Street, right across from BOPS.
Photo by Elizabeth Maloy

That's a Wrap

hot off the grille

Caliente Grille, a new southwestern restaurant located right next to campus, has been a learning process for owner Charles Arinder, a recent Southern Miss alumnus. Arinder, a native of Columbia, Mississippi, got the idea for the business venture while finishing his degree and working as an intern at a Hattiesburg accounting firm.

Growth and change have been the prevailing themes in Arinder's life. Though his hometown is barely 25 miles from Southern Miss, most of his friends went to other colleges. Being out of his comfort zone and support network gave him a new independence as he was in situations where he had to make new friends.

"Being around such motivated people always gave me a new goal to work towards. Toby Barker was a friend of mine in college and he was just elected as a State Representative for Mississippi. My friends were so ambitious and made me realize that my ideas were realistic," said Arinder. Later on, his contacts and connections at Southern Miss and in the Hattiesburg area gave him and Eric Webb, his business partner and the chef at Caliente, the means to plant the seed for the Caliente Grille.

His professors in the business department at Southern Miss gave him a strong base in the fundamentals by showing him the 'ins and outs' of starting a new business. In his studies, Arinder completed projects involving market research and the analysis of business models. "Starting a business is actually the easy part. Over 9,000 restaurants were started in the southeastern part of the United States last year. The real challenge is keeping your business running past the first two years," he said.





Photo by Elizabeth Maloy



A customer at Caliente licks her fingers after enjoying a bite of her hard taco. Caliente Grille is not only popular among Southern Miss students, but also throughout the Hattiesburg community.
Photo by Christopher Bostick

Christen Cooper, a freshman from Meridian, Mississippi, sits with Josey Warnick, a freshman from Aberdeen, Mississippi. They enjoy a quesadilla and some chips and salsa during a relaxing evening out.
Photo by Briana Dekemel

The communication skills that Arinder built at Southern Miss while working with student organizations also came into use when working on his ideas for the Caliente Grille. He had to negotiate with bankers, lawyers, and investors to convince them to fund his new restaurant, using social skills cultivated at Southern Miss. "Southern Style especially prepared me to work with all different groups of people and their needs. I had to interact with students, parents, professors, and faculty all day."

Arinder's goal was to create a positive and comfortable environment where his employees have a personal connection with him. On the Caliente Grill's job applications, there is a section that asks the applicant to simply draw a funny picture.

Another important area to Arinder is giving back to the community and the college that nurtured him. He wanted to provide other students with the inspiration he found at Southern Miss and to give them the same confidence he had in developing their ideas. To do this, Arinder offers any school organization the option to open an account with the restaurant. When members of the school organization spend money at the Caliente Grille, the restaurant gives a small percentage back to that organization. For Greek organizations, the money goes to their philanthropy funds.

The Caliente Grille has already found success with Southern Miss students and the Hattiesburg population. "I love their burritos because they are so packed and delicious. The only problem I have is that my wrist starts to hurt trying to hold them up to take a bite. It's a good problem to have," said Brian Cline, a junior psychology major from Brandon, Mississippi. Thanks to this warm reception, Arinder hopes to become a fixture in the growth of Hattiesburg's business scene.

Story by Bradley Glasco

College of Education & Psychology

share your passion

An old proverb states, "a mind is a terrible thing to waste," and nothing better reflects the spirit of the College of Education and Psychology: a school dedicated to educating prospective teachers, understanding the human mind, and analyzing social systems.

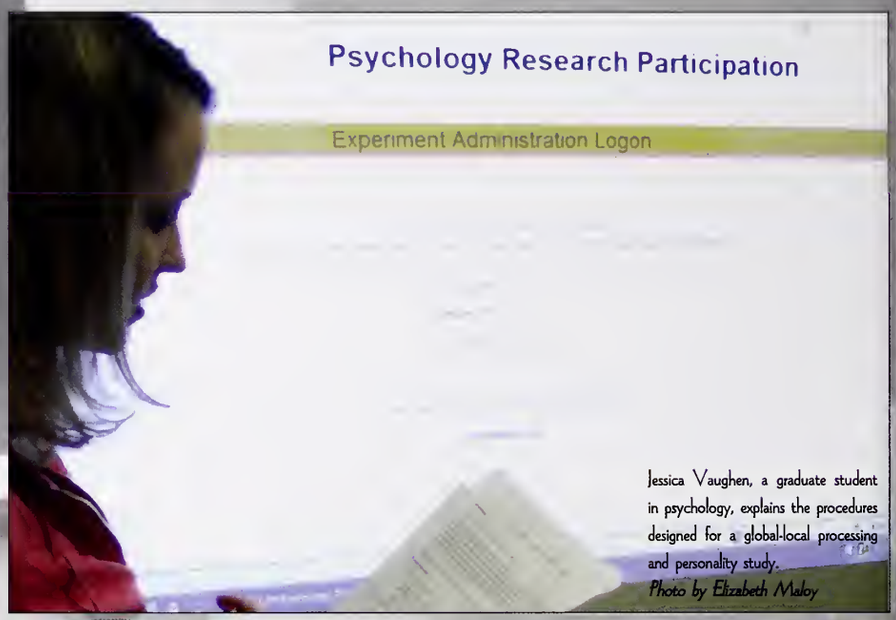
The College of Education and Psychology includes many diverse departments: Child and Family Studies; Curriculum, Instruction, and Special Education; Educational Leadership and Research; Psychology; Technology Education; and the School of Library and Information Science. Dr. Wanda Maulding, dean of the college, said, "Our college is the home of more than 150 dedicated faculty and staff; we house various centers and other resources for our students and our community of learners."

Dylan Pair, a junior from Ocean Springs, Mississippi, has worked in the dean's office for three years and witnessed the supportive environment of the College of Education and Psychology.

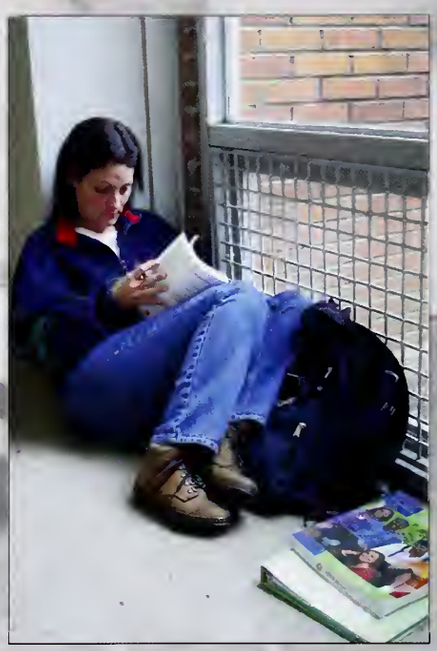
"We train future teachers and we research things like alcohol dependency and sleep testing," Pair said when asked what he thought were the college's most important endeavors. Among all of the college's activities, Pair said his favorite is the College Celebration Event, which happens twice a year and brings together faculty—and students, which started in the spring—to celebrate all of the college's accomplishments, from grants received to articles published, including a showcase of students achievements.

With each new class, the University of Southern Mississippi grows towards the future. Teachers, librarians, and psychologists all pass through the doors of the College of Education and Psychology, armed with the knowledge and techniques they need to mend the world.

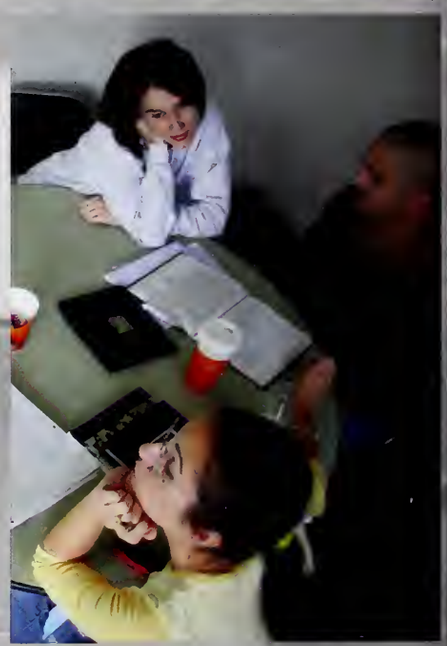
Story by Hannah McInnis



Jessica Vaughen, a graduate student in psychology, explains the procedures designed for a global-local processing and personality study.
Photo by Elizabeth Maloy



Melissa Herndon, a psychology major from Gulfport, Mississippi, sits in the hallway of Owings-McQuagge to study before her adolesence class.
Photo by Elizabeth Maloy



Seniors Michelle Jordan, Damien Holmes, and Mary Lewis, study together for a psychology test.
Photo by Elizabeth Maloy



Michelle Mullins, a junior elementary education major, sits in front of Southern Hall as she studies her Mathematical Reasoning for Elementary Teachers book.
Photo by Christopher Bostick

HONDURAS
learning the way of the dolphin



Dr. Stanley Kuczaj's psychology class gathers beneath a pavilion to engage in a class discussion.

Few countries in the world can boast clear turquoise waters, pristine beaches, lush jungles and breathtaking mountains, and fewer students can claim to have studied amidst such beauty. Through the Honduran Studies program, students explore this vibrant country while experiencing the warmth and hospitality of Honduras. Participants in the course get to join Dr. Stanley Kuczaj, chair of the Department of Psychology, in the study of wild dolphins native to the beautiful waters surrounding Utila, an island off the northern coast of Honduras.

During the trip, the students study the social behaviors and migration patterns of dolphins and whales. The students had the opportunity to participate in all aspects of the research. "We went out on the boat everyday to search for the dolphins and whales. We took turns on each piece of equipment to ensure that we were learning every part of the project," said Lauren Waldrop, a sophomore business technology education major.

The group of students got to perform various tasks including video recording, picture taking, data recording, and sonar recording. Using special equipment, the students identified the dolphins and through those identifications they were able to see which dolphins were traveling together and where they were located year after year.

The students also participated in land-based activities such as analyzing data obtained from their boat trips.During their three-week stay on the island, the students spend most of their time on the water searching for and observing marine mammals, but they may spend their free time as they wish. "There were plenty of opportunities during our time there to explore Honduras, and we all took full advantage of it and really got to know the culture and people there," said Waldrop.

Even though the Honduran Studies course is geared towards marine biology and psychology majors, participation is open to all majors. "To go, you only need to apply through USM and be able to meet the financial requirements, but the number of students is only limited by the size of our research boat," said Dr. Kuczaj, director of the program. Students earn four credit hours in psychology while gaining firsthand experience in the joys and frustrations associated with the field study.

"My favorite part of the trip was getting to know everyone that wasn't from Southern Miss and learning about all the different cultures located outside the United States; but, my all-time favorite part of doing research was the dolphins. At some encounters, there were hundreds of dolphins swimming around us," said Waldrop.

Sometimes we grow the most in unfamiliar soil, challenged by strange circumstances and new opportunities.

Story by Brettany Payne



A dolphin says hello to the group of students that is observing him. Schools of dolphins also frequently swim by the boats during studies.
All Photos Submitted by Lauren Waldrop





Lauren Waldrop relaxes in a hammock underneath the warm Honduran sun. Though students learn a great deal about dolphins, they also enjoy down-time to relax and explore Honduras.



College of Health

heal the world

The ultimate goal of education is the application of theory to pre-existing problems in society, and this is apparent in the College of Health. With nearly 3,000 students, 200 faculty members, and seven departments and schools ranging from the School of Nursing to Human Performance and Recreation, the College of Health seeks to helps its students grow into competent healthcare professionals.

"There is a sense of family within the healthcare industry that has flowed down to the educational level," said Andrew Sorey, a senior nursing major from Terry, Mississippi. "In essence, the College of Health teaches you how to help other people."

Robert Ledbetter, a senior nursing major from Memphis, Tennessee, defined the college as the origin of the future of healthcare.

"Our society bases itself on the ability to provide and acquire healthcare, and the College of Health acts as a continuous means of escalating the quality of healthcare available," said Ledbetter.

In addition to preparing students for careers, the College of Health is a Carnegie Research Facility that is active in medical research. The research focus of the college allows its programs to isolate health issues and address them in an academic setting.

"Many challenges exist today in the area of health," said Dean Peter Fos in his Dean's Message. "These challenges are opportunities for the students and faculty of the college to have an impact on the health of the population."

Story by Chris Mills and Bradley Glasco



A student with the College of Health practices pulmonary resuscitation on a training dummy.
Photo by Calvin Wu



Robert Ledbetter, from Memphis, Tennessee, and Courtney Dunn from Madison, Mississippi, both senior nursing students, return to campus after finishing their clinicals.
Photo by Jaime McKercher



Lakisha Nichels, a sophomore speech and hearing major from Fayette, Mississippi, and Jessica Rose, a junior deaf education major, practice American Sign Language during downtime in the Cook Library.
Photo by Elizabeth Maloy



Healthcare students examine a human torso during their anatomy laboratory class. *Photo by Calvin Wu*

SCHOOL OF NURSING celebrates



Heather Kyzer from Pearl, Mississippi and Jamie Lesher from Gulfport, Mississippi look over their nursing charts during a mandatory lab.
Photo by Calvin Wu



Jeremy Steward from Mize, Mississippi work on "Sim-Man," a computerized dummy that can correspond to student care.
Photo by Calvin Wu



Nursing student Mallori Rushing checks the pulse of SimBaby. The teaching mannequin is the size of a three-month old infant and has realistic anatomy.
Photo Submitted by Photo Services

40 YEARS of excellence



Sonja Tate from Magnolia, Mississippi prepares a syringe to inject into the "Sim-Man"
Photo Submitted by Photo Services

The School of Nursing celebrated its history of educating innovative nurses and promoting health and nursing science this year. The school's 40th Anniversary celebration began during Homecoming festivities where the School of Nursing had its own float and also participated in tailgating. "We have taken every opportunity for activities this year. We've invited alumni to join in the festivities, and we were even able to bring back the first student ever enrolled in the Nursing Program at Southern Miss," said Dr. Katherine Nugent, director of the School of Nursing.

The nursing program was established forty years ago thanks to the efforts of Sister Mary Remegius (Elizabeth C. Harkins). It accepted seventy students in 1967, just two years after the American Nurses' Association decided that nursing education should move from hospital-based learning to an actual degree program offered through universities. Since then, more than 5,500 students have graduated. "Every semester we take in an average of 60 students from 150 applicants. This year we increased the incoming number of students to 72 due to the national lack of nurses," said Liz Edwards, the school's assistant director.

To commemorate such an illustrious history, events such as "Nurse Day" and an open house were scheduled. The David Fine Lectureship introduced prestigious researchers and professors such as Dr. Beatrice Kalisch, PhD. Dr. Kalisch has conducted numerous research studies in the areas of patient safety and quality, nursing teamwork, nursing work environments, recruitment and retention of nurses, nursing policy, and the image of the nurse.

The School of Nursing ended its year-long celebration with a gala in May at the Hattiesburg County Club. Nancy Coey, an inspirational speaker and humorist, was invited to be the keynote speaker of the event. The School of Nursing also hosted a reception on May 3 for all alumni and friends in honor of the 40th Anniversary and the growth the school has achieved through its many accomplishments.

Today, the Nursing School has developed into a high quality, highly competitive nursing school. It offers educational programs at the baccalaureate, masters, and doctorate levels in three locations: Hattiesburg, the Gulf Coast, and in Meridian.

The school was recently renovated in order to provide students with state of the art equipment. Through grants and fundraisers, major changes were particularly seen in the Clinical Simulation Lab. The facility has eleven mannequins that serve as human patient simulators, two of which are computer-controlled: "SimMan" and "SimBaby". The "SimMan" responds to different scenarios, which are entered by the professor.

"I'm fascinated by their responses. They cough, answer questions, and if administered the wrong amount of medicine, they even vomit," said Denise Dickerson, a first semester nursing major from Bay Springs, Mississippi. Each session is digitally recorded in order to show students how they reacted and what needs to be improved. "It's a fun experience that really prepares you for the challenges of the profession," said Dickerson.

The School of Nursing has proven to be prestigious among schools around the country. It has grown throughout its forty years of excellence and continues to inspire its students to work towards a better future.

Story by Jennifer Vital

College of Science & Technology

explore your world

One of the largest and most diverse components of the University of Southern Mississippi, the College of Science and Technology, incorporates 170 faculty members, 2,600 undergraduate students, 500 graduate students and houses departments ranging from Administration of Justice to Marine Science, Mathematics to Workforce Development.

Within the College of Science and Technology there are top ranked departments that bring Southern Miss to the cutting edge of the scientific community. One such department is Polymer Science, which routinely ranks in the top three programs in the nation according to Bret Calhoun, the Assistant Director of the School of Polymer Science and High Performance Materials.

The diversity of the programs offered by the College of Science and Technology is only matched by the versatility of the studies that make up these programs. Brittany Grant, a sophomore biological sciences major from Braxton, Mississippi, said these studies are vital to all students.

"The college has helped me to realize the importance of science, math, and the surrounding fields," said Grant, "I am a firm believer that everyone should take the time to stock up on math and science."

Rex Gandy, the Dean of the College of Science and Technology since 2000, has striven to instill new technology and fresh programming to the college in order to continue its current level of success far into the future.

"It is a distinct honor to be the Dean of a college with such outstanding and dedicated faculty, staff, and students," said Gandy.

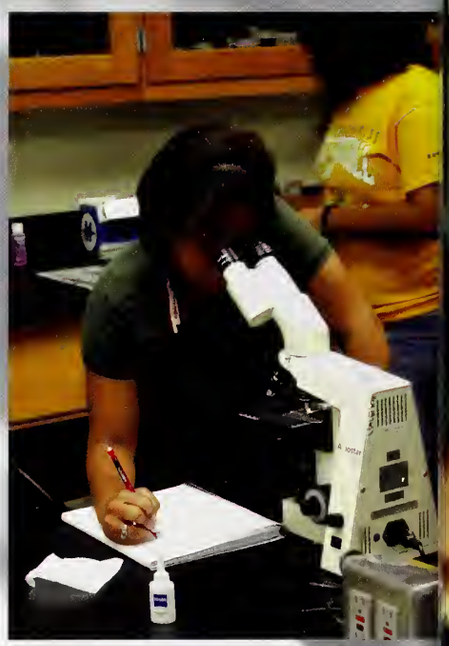
Story by Chris Mills and Marchandria Thomas



A bunsen burner is lit by a student during an experiment in one of the College of Science and Technology's many teaching laboratories.
Photo by Calvin Wu



A science student heats a crucible as part of a mass reduction experiment to discover the composition of a substance.
Photo by Calvin Wu



A fellow student observes bacterial growth and notes the differences between rod, spiral, helix, and cluster bacteria.
Photo by Calvin Wu



Matt Jackson, a graduate student working in the Polymer Science research lab, presents a beaker.
Photo by Elizabeth Maloy

One of a Kind

sports + high performance materials

By any definition, the Department of Polymer Sciencc is onc of the university's most prestigious. Since its inception, the department has grown yearly in size and renown, and this year has been no different. What was different, though, was the direction of the department's growth in collaboration with the Department of Human Performance and Recreation. The Sports and High Performance Materials program is a collaboration between these two schools, and it features the first multidisciplinary curriculum involving two schools from different colleges at Southern Miss.

The purpose of thc program is to help the students involved apply their scientific, analytical, and problem solving skills to the dcsign, research, and testing of polymers used in sports. Dr. Jeff Wiggins, an associate professor in the polymer science department, and Dr. Gary Krebs, an associate professor of human performance and recreation, have teamed up to tcach students how to create prosthctics; baseball, basketball, and football gear; golf clubs; paintballs; and other sporting goods. Studcnts are also taught how to test such equipment oncc created. "Our goal is to mold students into problem solvers to help our sporting goods industries develop apparel and equipment that is comfortable, that excels in performance, and, most importantly, is safe," said Dr. Wiggins.

This program is also going to help students and industries in Mississippi, as pointed out by Dr. Krebs: "When we start graduating students, companies will get skilled professionals trained in materials, biomechanics, and sport/exercise physiology." This program will be tapping into a $450 billion dollar industry by producing a higher-quality workforce.

The professors aren't the only ones excited—students are already becoming dedicated to the program. "I think it's an incredible opportunity for students interested in polymer scicnce and human pcrformance," said Mcghan Davis, a senior sports and high performance materials major from Hattiesburg, Mississippi. "While this program is new and somewhat unfamiliar, I think it won't be long before people start realizing the potential that it holds for the students here." The opportunity for internships is another big draw for the program. When the program was formally introducccd on January 23rd in Orlando, Florida, there were over 1500 companies in attendance, including world-class names like Nike, Reebok, Diamond, and Wilson.

This program caters to a unique mix of disciplines that the university has never really explored before. "I was previously in the polymer science program, and while I don't really feel like I've left the program, I am able to prepare for a career in a more specific field of polymers," said Davis.

Stephen Heinz, a graduate student from Hattiesburg, Mississippi shared these sentiments: "Sports are a passion in my life…now my knowledge of sports can be applied to my knowledge of polymers for research. Getting the opportunity to work in the department of my so-called toys—golfing equipment and snowboards—is definitely exciting."

In a world where people's interests encompass so many different realms, the Sports and High Performance Materials program represents Southern Miss' first attempt to bridge the gap between distant loves, brining disparate threads together to grow in new, strange, wonderful ways.

Story by Alan Wheat



Bobby Cook, a graduate student in the SHP department looks through a microscope to get a closer look at a sample.

All Photos Submitted by Dr. Jeffrey Wiggins



Matt Jackson stretches out his arms to swing as he tests the strain on the neck of a golf club.



Ben Carr observes a participant in a study, recording her breathing patterns as she runs on a treadmill. A sports and high performance materials curriculum has an emphasis on human performance.



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HONORS COLLEGE

a community of success



To grow, anything must be nourished; this is the guiding principle of college— that a mind fed with new ideas and experiences will flourish. Nowhere on campus is this more exemplified than in the university's Honors College, the sixth oldest acceptance-based program in the country. Since its inception in 1976, the Honors College has challenged generations of students to better themselves with the simple understanding that with greater challenges come greater rewards.

The Honors College functions on two distinct levels: General Honors and Senior Honors. General Honors throws students right into the rigors of college academics by replacing core curriculum classes with honors' equivalents—classes taught by professors whose schedules sometimes never dip below the junior level help provide a more challenging academic environment that prepares freshmen and sophomores for their more specialized studies as upperclassmen.

But it isn't just challenge that motivates students in the General Honors program: many honors courses have been reinvented as active-learning classes, complete with components that extend outside the traditional classroom. Active-learning classes send students around the country with trips ranging from a whirlwind tour of theatre in New York to a close study of dolphins in Florida.

Students are responding to the Honors College philosophy. "It has helped me to become a well-educated, well-traveled and well-rounded person," said Esther Dollar, a sophomore art education major from Wilmer, Alabama. "It just keeps exposing you to new things, and it really helps you appreciate how big the world really is."

"The active-learning classes have really been our main focus this year," said Stacey Ready, the coordinator for General Honors. "We've been working both to expand the list of offered classes and to retool them based on student feedback."

General Honors also serves as a lead -in to Senior Honors, the culmination of the college's efforts. As juniors, honors students take either a prospectus writing class or another similarly rigorous research methodology course. As seniors, they use these newfound skills in research and analysis to produce a senior thesis on a topic of their choice with the aid of a faculty advisor. This work prepares students for the world of graduate studies and allows them to graduate with Latin distinction.

"I really am looking forward to writing my senior thesis because it's a chance to have free reign to investigate the philosophies and ideas that interest me in my field of study," said Zach Hassel, a junior music education major from Pensacola, Florida.

The Honors College is more than just another division of academic study at Southern Miss. It is a community of success built on a model of expectations—the idea that if you expect more of a capable student, they will deliver more and grow more in response. Thirty-one years have transformed the Honors College from a humble collection of programs to one of the most respected institutions at Southern Miss and have transformed over thirty classes of students into active and ambitious scholars.

Story by Elliott Freeman

The Honors English World Literature class jumps for joy at the sight of the U.S. Supreme Court Building on their way to the Shakespeare Museum in Washington, D.C.
Photo Submitted by Honors College



Students stop for a pretzel break as they walk along the streets of New York City. The Honors Theatre class travels to Broadway in both the fall and spring.
Photo Submitted by Honors College



Corey Higginbotham, Sam Muller, Jessica DeJean, and Kari Busby, all sophomores, relax on the sidewalk during the Honors College Picnic.
Photo by Calvin Wu

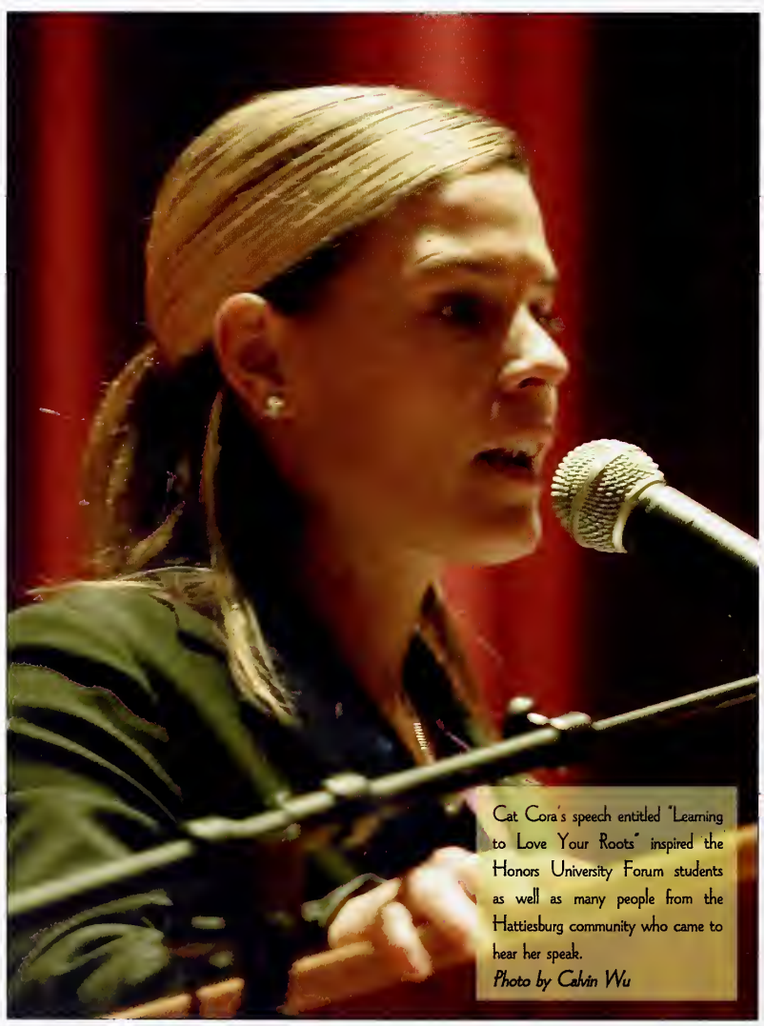




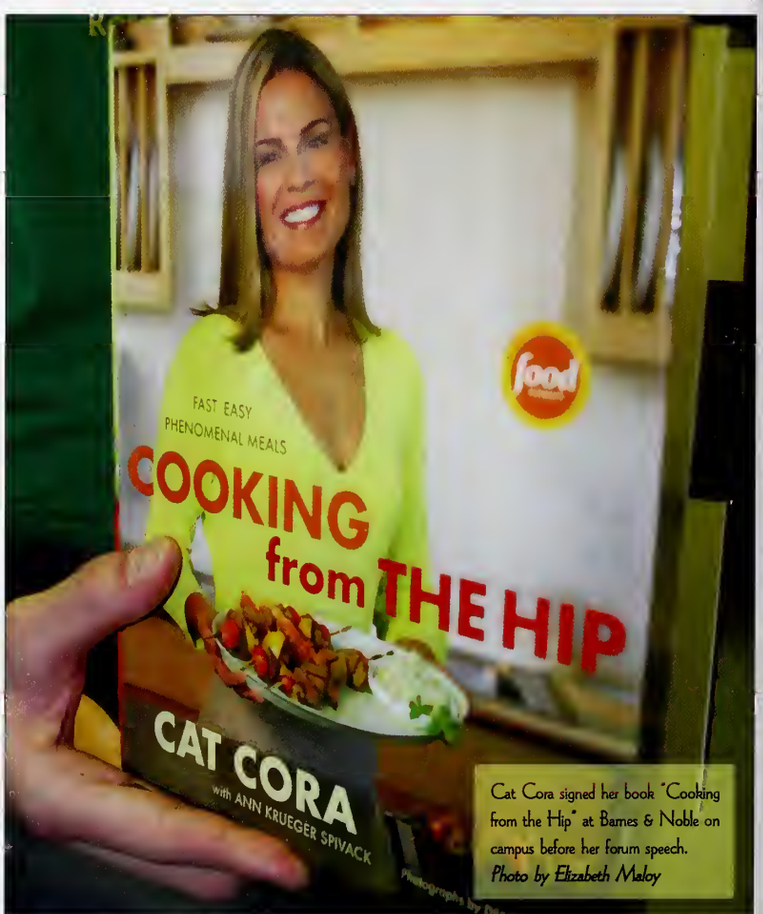
Marty Griffith, Anita Santos and Erica Dukes are dolphin kids during the Honors Psychology trip to Gulf World in Panama City, Florida.
Photo Submitted by Honors College



William Hatten, a sophomore theatre major, speaks to Cat Cora during a benefit dinner for her philanthropy *Chefs for Humanity*.
Photo Submitted by Public Relations



Cat Cora's speech entitled "Learning to Love Your Roots" inspired the Honors University Forum students as well as many people from the Hattiesburg community who came to hear her speak.
Photo by Calvin Wu



Cat Cora signed her book "Cooking from the Hip" at Barnes & Noble on campus before her forum speech.
Photo by Elizabeth Maloy

IRON CHEF COMES HOME

golden eagle loves her roots

Southern Miss has always played host to a myriad of speakers, including some of the university's finest alumni, who are invited to talk to current students about the reality of the world outside Hattiesburg. This year, through a joint effort of the Honors College and the College of Business, Southern Miss was fortunate enough to play host to alumna Cat Cora, America's first female Iron Chef and a successful businesswoman and philanthropist in her own right.

Cora, a native of Jackson, Mississippi, graduated from the University of Southern Mississippi with a bachelor's degree in Exercise Physiology and Biology.

Afterward, she enrolled in the Culinary Institute of America at the recommendation of Julia Child, ultimately graduating with honors. Cora continued to master her skills in the kitchens of Europe while working under two of France's most highly regarded chefs. Today, Cora serves as the first and only female Iron Chef on the eponymous Food Network program, has written two books, and has also founded a philanthropy named Chefs for Humanity.

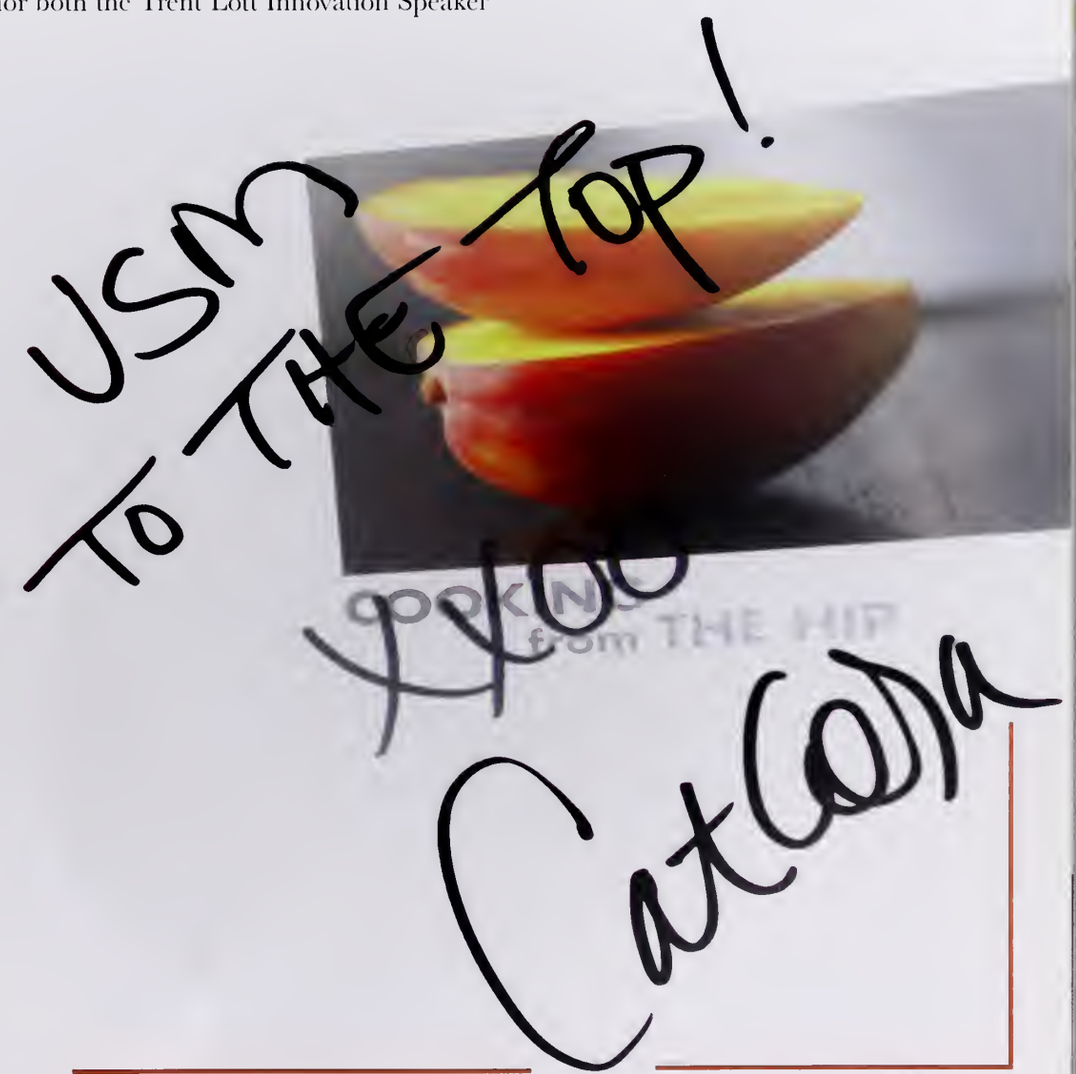
The topic of Cora's presentation was loving one's roots. Despite an early desire to leave Mississippi and see the world, Cora discovered that every time she went elsewhere, she thought fondly of home. She also described the trials inherent to being a female chef in Europe, using her own experiences to encourage students to tackle adversity for something that they truly love. The students in attendance seemed to take Cora's message to heart.

"She made a name for herself," said Andie Szabo, a general studies freshman from Brandon, Mississippi. "But she let us know that it took her a while to figure out exactly what she wanted from life. It made me feel better about not knowing where my life is going after graduating from Southern."

"She definitely leads a very interesting life," said Jonathan Nowacki, a freshman speech pathology major from St. Martin, Mississippi. "She had a hard time getting established, but she still made it. Her success was well-deserved, and she's still got her humility intact."

Cora gave her presentation, aptly titled "Living to Love Your Roots," as a speaker for both the Trent Lott Innovation Speaker Series and for the university's Honors Forum, a series of diverse speakers with the goal of broadening the horizons of freshman in the Honors College while providing insightful events for the entire university. While on campus, Cora also spoke to several classes personally, attended a benefit dinner for her philanthropy Chefs for Humanity, and conducted a book signing at the Southern Miss Barnes and Noble.

Story by Elliott Freeman



community and coast



All Photos by Christopher Bostick



Elizabeth Maloy and Meredith Breckinridge enjoy the snow at the Abbey. The Abbey in Pontlvoy, France helps Southern Miss students expand their horizons: they can take a semester of courses at a time while enjoying their European experience. *Photos by Elizabeth Maloy*

SATELLITE CAMPUSES

a vast network pursuing greatness



In an effort to broaden the scope of its academic endeavors and community involvement, Southern Miss has established many satellite facilities that offer educational programs to both undergraduate and graduate students and provide countless avenues for original research by university faculty. Among these facilities are the Gulf Park campus, Gulf Coast Research Laboratory, J.L. Scott Marine Education Center, Stennis Space Center, School of Nursing – Meridian, and teaching sites at Keesler Air Force Base, the Jackson County Center and even a study abroad site in Pontelvoy, France.

The great diversity in location as well as the multitude of studies covered by these sites shows the impact that Southern Miss has on students not only at the main Hattiesburg campus, but in other locations throughout the state and on an international level.

The facilities located on the Gulf Coast primarily focus on marine science research and instruction, while the Stennis Space Center site deals primarily with workforce development and higher education. The nursing school located in Meridain, Mississippi mirrors the nursing instruction provided at the Hattiesburg campus and the Keesler Air Force Base site deals primarily with the education of military students attending the university through government and military funding.

According to Pat Joachim, Associate Provost of the Southern Miss Gulf Park campus, the primary focus of the satellite teaching facilities is to broaden the student base and provide services to community groups across the state.

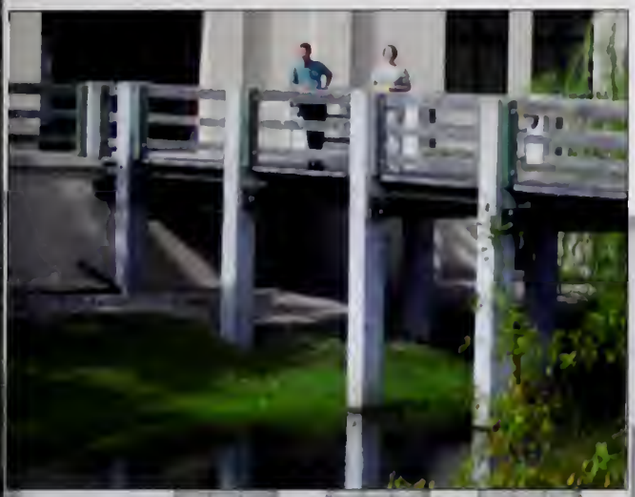
Joachim added that economic growth in the area will spur a large population boom and an increase in available students for admission to Southern Miss.

"With the development of premier academic programs we are going to be able to attract successful students," said Joachim. "Many programs will be able to recruit students based on the availability of industry in the area."

Mike Mitchell, Associate Dean of Students for the Hattiesburg campus, explained further: "These facilities provide an opportunity to extend our programs and academic mission to people across the state, especially to areas that are typically underserved."

Story by Chris Mills

Background Photo by Jaime McKercher



The Advanced Education Center and Bear Point Bayou stand as another example of the elegance of the recovering Gulf Park Campus.
Photo by Christopher Bostick



The Gulf Coast Student Center has been configured to offer classrooms and other educational resources in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. Many students divide their time between here and the Gulf Park campus.
Photo by Christopher Bostick



Greg Lamar takes advantage of the beautiful outdoor environment of the Gulf Park Campus to study. This structure in the center of the Gulf Park Campus has survived many a storm. *Photo by Christopher Bostick*



The coast students often enjoy the atmosphere created by the comfortable breeze off the gulf. Many of the buildings have areas to help take advantage of this.
Photo by Jaime McKercher

"We can **overcome** anything, endure, and build things **bigger** and **better** than before."



The bookstore at the Gulf Coast Community Center gets a much needed expansion. After this wall was removed, the bookstore more than doubled in size.
Photo by Christopher Bostick



Students of the Gulf Park campus volunteer to help the ongoing cleanup efforts. People from around the country also continue to give their time to work for the continued recovery of the Gulf Coast region.
Photo Submitted by the Department of Marketing and Public Relations



The library is one of the newly renovated buildings on the Gulf Park campus. It stands as a testament to the campus's ability to bounce back better than ever.
Photo by Christopher Bostick

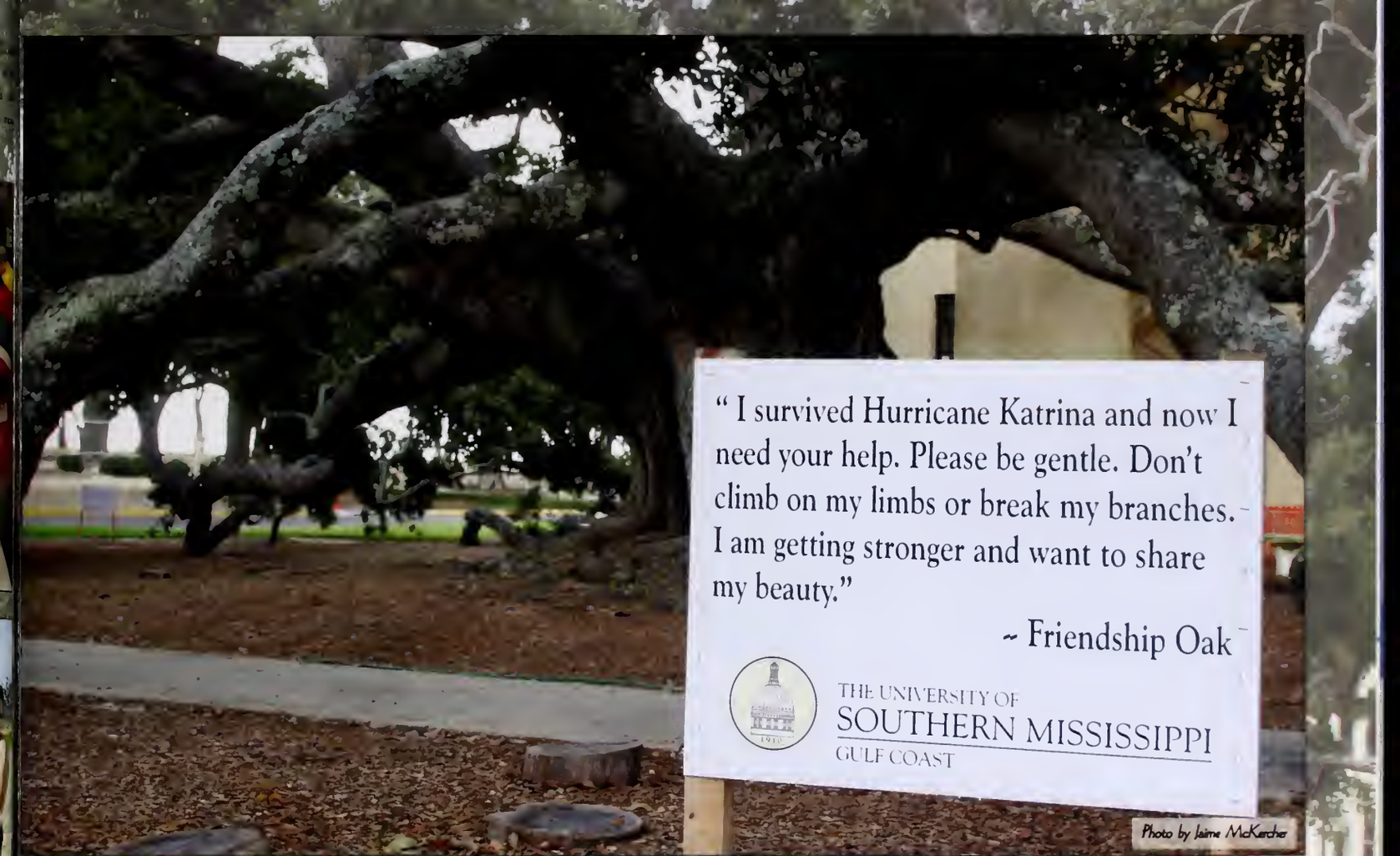


Photo by Jaime McKercher

COAST RECOVERY

Gulf Park strives to recover its former beauty

Much like the rest of the Mississippi Gulf Coast, Hurricane Katrina ravaged the Southern Miss Gulf Park campus in the fall of 2005. Now, two years later, the campus has resumed its academic endeavors in almost full capacity.

At first the devastation of the storm seemed boundless; however, as the days and months passed, the board of trustees for Southern Miss and the Mississippi Institutions for Higher Learning began picking up the pieces and formulating a plan to use this disaster as a catalyst for progress.

According to Bryan Freeman, a senior accounting major from Long Beach, Mississippi, the eagerness to reestablish operations at the Gulf Park campus was immediately clear.

"You can feel Southern Miss getting back into its stride here on the coast," said Freeman. "Having classes return to the Long Beach campus so soon is an example of the dedication Southern Miss officials are putting in down here."

The quickness of university officials to move toward re-establishing normalcy and the willingness of students and faculty alike to help in this endeavor is a statement to the university's class and determination according to Brandi Saucier, a senior marketing major from Gulfport, Mississippi.

"The university's reaction shows we can overcome anything, endure, and build things bigger and better than before," said Saucier.

According to Robert Bass, the Project Director of Gulf Coast Operations for Institutions of Higher Learning, progress and the opportunity to create a better campus were driving forces in the plans for hurricane recovery. As part of the recovery plan, the board of trustees for the university accepted a donation of 200 acres of land for a second Gulf Coast campus called Cross Creek. Bass said that although this campus is close to the older Gulf Park campus, the Cross Creek campus is targeted to become the main Gulf Coast campus while the Gulf Park location will be used for more specialized instruction for students.

The decision to accept the land donation was a move that, according to Bass, was based on the desire to relocate the main Gulf Coast campus in order to facilitate expedited recovery following future storms. The Cross Creek campus will be located north of Interstate 10, further inland, in order to shield it from the elements.

Bass said that at this point in the recovery process the university is operating at near full academic capacity with the remaining work being done on the facilities lining the front of the campus.

"Southern Miss is a resilient institution of creative and hard working people who accepted some hard challenges," said Bass. "These people were willing to do whatever it took to make sure that students were back in class being educated."

Story by Chris Mills

Background Photo by Jaime McKercher



Matt Stone drills for core samples in a Pearl River marsh. The samples are then analyzed at the Stennis Space Center labs. *Photo Submitted by the Department of Marine Science*

GULF COAST RESEARCH

breaking ground across the state and into the gulf



Melissa Pratt-Zossoungbo color codes native coastal marsh plants. Her research could help to develop a steady supply of native plants for use in coastal wetlands remediation projects. *Photo Submitted by the Gulf Coast Research Lab*



A member of the marine mammals class scopes out the breath-taking view of the gulf. *Photo Submitted by the Gulf Coast Research Lab*



These students take water samples off a pier in the gulf. These samples will be used for ongoing research. *Photo Submitted by the Department of Marine Science*



Melissa Pratt-Zossoungbo checks the seeds of her saltmarsh plants, which she is nurturing for her research. *Photo Submitted by the Gulf Coast Research Lab*

A strength of the University of Southern Mississippi is that it is a community of higher learning based both on academic instruction and original research conducted to further scientific knowledge. The Gulf Coast Research Laboratory (GCRL) is a major constituent of this community and provides the university with original research as well as numerous publications.

According to Dr. Jeffery Lotz, Chairman of the Department of Coastal Sciences, the GCRL offers hands-on educational programs for pre-college students in addition to drawing undergraduate students from Southern Miss and universities from throughout the United States. Educational activities at the GCRL are coordinated through a single academic department and four centers located on site.

> "Many of our students have gone on to stellar scientific careers."

"GCRL places the university among select educational institutions that have marine research laboratories and field facilities on America's waterfronts," said Dr. William Hawkins, GCRL Executive Director, "not only are many of the GCRL scientists pioneers in the scientific investigation of Gulf of Mexico plants, animals and processes, many of our students have gone on to stellar scientific careers."

The GCRL was launched on August 29, 1947 by the Mississippi Academy of Sciences with the opening of its first summer field program. This program has operated continuously since its establishment over 60 years ago. Ironically, it was on its 58th birthday that the GCRL, along with the rest of the Gulf Coast, was hit by Hurricane Katrina, one of the most devastating storms in history. Since this catastrophe the GCRL has striven to resume its research and educational rolls in full capacity.

"Faculty, researchers and educators who are leaders in their field are continuing their scientific exploration and education related to marine and coastal resources," said Dr. Hawkins, "but they, along with technical and support staff, are dealing with the added challenges of restoring lost facilities and reestablishing programs."

Story by Chris Mills

"Its an **exciting** time to be a **film** major."



Jonathan Wilson practices with a camera in his advanced film class, setting up a shot of his classmate Matthew Gospodinovich. *Photo Submitted by Dr. Scott McDowell, professor of film.*



Stephen Fouasnon learns vital cinematography skills from Dr. Scott McDowell. Fouasnon was part of a group promoting the environmental documentary "The 11th Hour." *Photo Submitted by the Department of Marketing and Public Relations*

A NEW HOME

the film program makes the move to the coast

After initial plans to move Southern Miss' film program to the coast were interrupted by Hurricane Katrina, the move has finally been made. The film program started holding classes on the coast campus in August and will continue to do so in an attempt to build a full scale academic program on the coast.

The main reasons for moving to the coast are the opportunities that it opens for film majors. Don Dixon, the director of the film program, elaborated: "It will create opportunities for the program and the university to partner with the entertainment and casino industries."

Dr. Chris Campbell, the director for the School of Mass Communications and Journalism, is also excited about the move: "As the Coast rebuilds, Southern Miss is going to be located in an important media market that will present wide ranging opportunities for a lot of students."

Faculty are not the only ones excited about the move to the coast. Students also show their excitement toward the move as they focus their ambitions towards the opportunities that the move will bring.

"The film department's move to the coast will ultimately be very beneficial to the program and it's students," said Michael Williams, a junior film major from Tupelo, Mississippi. "We now have more support from the entertainment community of Mississippi and have the ability to stand out and grow as a film program. Its an exciting time to be a film major."

Benjamin Porter, a sophomore film major, shared Williams's sentiments: "The move to the coast shows that these students have a passion about film and are dedicated to the field."

That same passion has already been seen in many of the school's students, like Stephen Fouasnon, a senior film major from Bay St. Louis, Mississippi. Fouasnon was selected for a two-week internship at the Cannes International Film Festival last May, giving him the opportunity to attend several professional grade workshops and seminars while interacting with some of the most prestigious individuals in the entire industry.

"It really was an incredible experience," Fouasnon said, "to be able to work in such a historically renowned city…it's almost like a fantasyland."

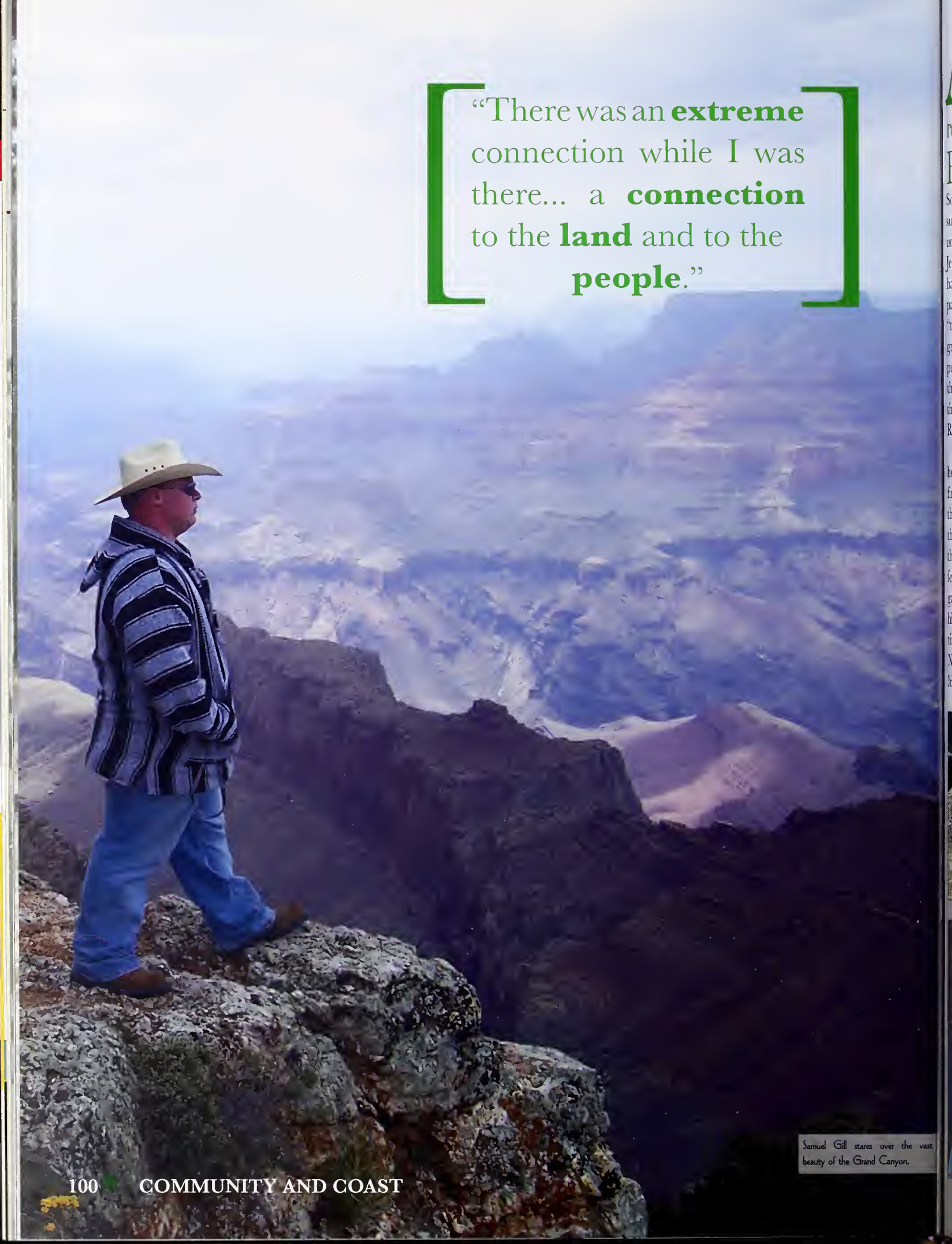
Story by Alan Wheat



Prince Wright develops the skill to capture that magic moment. The film program recently moved to the Gulf Coast Student Center. *Photo Submitted by the Dr. Scott McDowell, professor of film.*



Matthew Gospodinovich learns how to use advanced lighting techniques to maximize his film's potential. *Photo Submitted by Dr. Scott McDowell, professor of film.*



"There was an **extreme** connection while I was there... a **connection** to the **land** and to the **people**."

Samuel Gill stares over the vast beauty of the Grand Canyon.

A Trip for the Soul

researching the past to define the present

Every May, geography students from the Gulf Coast travel to the Southwest to learn research methods, such as documenting prehistoric art and understanding Native American culture. Jerry Coleman, a geography professor, has led the expedition annually for the past fifteen years. According to Coleman, "this year we had a very dynamic group that wished to fully explore the perimeters of a prehistoric culture and the Ancient Ones' interactions with their surroundings: the Land/Man Relationship."

Samuel Gill, an English major, helped to add to that dynamic with his first Southwest expedition. Throughout the trip, Gill kept a journal detailing the events of the trip, often quoting the thoughts of Coleman and his fellow classmates. The experience gave him an opportunity to practice his journalism skills, while at the same time learning about the culture of the Native Americans they studied and the historical roots of the Southwest.

The following are excerpts from Gill's Journal:

17 May 2007: "'All too often we under-appreciate the intellectual capabilities of prehistoric or ancient people,' said Jerry Coleman, instructor and leader of the expedition. 'We seem tied up in our own technological frenzy and yet many of the things they did to live were well advanced of today's cultures.'"

18 May: "Stacy Brown, a senior and elementary education major, said, 'The whole place was peaceful. The temperature inside was much cooler than that of outside. When I walked in and saw the structure, I couldn't grasp the idea that people were able to build that with what they found.'

"'The Kiva was exceptionally peaceful,' added Gina Kinney, who experienced the same feeling. 'I found myself walking the ruins imagining living at that time.'

"Jerry Coleman, instructor and leader of the expedition, said, 'In addition to learning those things with which we can see with our eyes, hear with our ears, and smell with our nose, there are those things with which we can only feel – the affirmation of spatial spirituality. Some people find it in the high desert, some in the mountain country of the Appalachians and some on the seashores of the Mississippi Sound. It is a feeling of peace and tranquility brought on by being in a specific place.'"

24 May: "This, my friends, shall be the last of what has been an amazing trip into a world that few have seen. The entire trip has been a great experience that I think everyone should do at least once in their lifetime.

"'The best part of the trip, for me, was actually touching the petroglyphs and pictographs left there by the Native Americans thousands of years ago,' said Wendy Griffioen, a sophomore and geographic information technology major. 'That touched my soul deeper than anything else that happened on the trip.'"

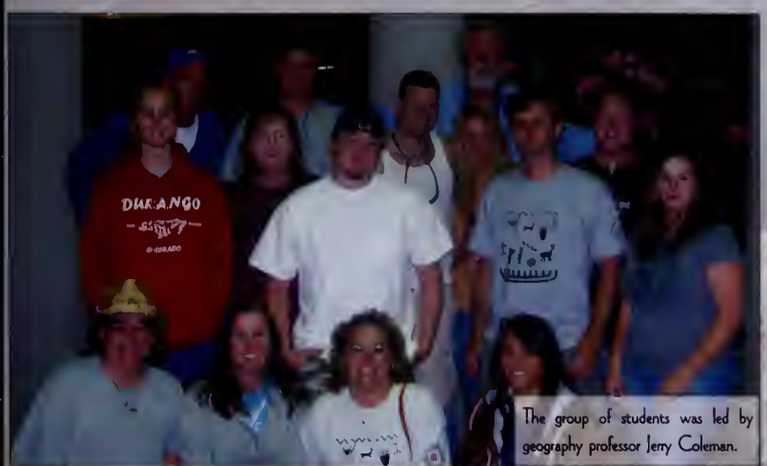
"This trip was not a one-time thing – it felt like home," said Gill. "There was an extreme connection while I was there. It was a connection to the land and to the people."

Excerpts, Story Information, and All Photos Submitted by Samuel Gill and the Department of Marketing and Public Relations

Edited by Jaime McKercher



The Aztec National Monument in Aztec, New Mexico stands as a testament to the ingenuity of the Aztec tribe.



The group of students was led by geography professor Jerry Coleman.



Samuel Gill of Ocean Springs, Mississippi, Dustin Garrett of Kentucky, Daron Ladner of Kiln, Mississippi, and Sean Dees of Gulfport, Mississippi construct their own totem pole.



Sergeant Reese May poses in front of a war-torn building. Such structures litter the countryside of Iraq.



Reese May, a sergeant in the United States Marine Corps and Southern Miss student, has served two tours of duty in Iraq over the past six years.



Sergeant Reese May and a fellow Marine take a minute to relax during a tough day.



Sergeant Reese May celebrates a victory with fellow marines Chisolm and Smith.

Photos Submitted by Reese May

School of Hard Knocks

getting an education during the War on Terror

The twenty-first century has seen many important historical events--even in its short life--not the least of which was the most infamous attaek on Ameriean soil: the notorious terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.

Since the initial deployment of troops to Afghanistan in the weeks following the attaeks, the ousting of Al-Qaeda and the removal of Saddam Hussein in Iraq, eountless American soldiers have given the ultimate saerifiee, their lives, for the betterment of Ameriean ideals and the proteetion of the fundamental rights of every Ameriean.

Reese May, a Sergeant in the United States Marine Corps and a Southern Miss student who has been on two active tours of duty, said that the war has impacted him in a deep way that is often hard to artieulate.

"Mostly, it has made me see and understand that we do what we do voluntarily so that others do not have to, and that to me is reason enough," said May.

May added that one of the most amazing aspects of Ameriea is that historieally there have always been men and women prepared to make personal sacrifices for the good of the whole nation, and it is this group of people that allows America to continue to move in the right direction amidst eontinuing eonfliets in the Middle East and an unprecedented level of globalization.

"The war affeets everyone," said Kevin Mathews, a sophomore Administration of Justice major from Destreham, Louisiana, who has recently signed on with the United States Army. "It is of utmost importanee that we be able to keep these terrorist groups from forming so that we ean keep another attack like 9/11 from happening."

"Something like the situation in the Middle East and the topic of terrorism are not issues to be handled with a quick fix," said Mathews. "We have to endure in order to restore peaee in Iraq and build up their government and military forees so that they ean soon stand on their own."

Despite sacrifices required by student soldiers here at home, May, Mathews, and other Southern Miss students involved in the "War on Terror" continue serve their country and higher ideals in the faee of adversity.

Story by Chris Mills



These members of the United States Army show their support for Southern Miss athletics.
Photo Submitted by the Department of Marketing and Public Relations

Live your Life

one semester abroad, one lifetime of experience

Johann Wolfgang von Goeth once said, "He who moves not forward, goes backward." In the University of Southern Mississippi's Study Abroad programs, it is impossible for a student to not move forward; the teachers, the environment, the fresh new experiences– everything that the foreign countries have to offer keeps the students moving forward into each brand new day.

The university offers many semester and year long programs that students can take advantage of, such as the Abbey Program in Pontlevoy, France and exchange programs with universities across the world. Students leave their familiar surroundings behind to immerse themselves in the culture of their new country, and ultimately return as different people from the experience.

"I started to realize some things in life are not important," said Lizzie Maloy, a sophomore graphic design major from Long Beach, Mississippi. "It is a whole other world. I began to see the big picture." Malloy, despite not being fluent in French, thoroughly enjoyed her study abroad program at the Abbey with the help and guidance of her professors.

Other students have felt the same way. "I was just really excited to be going to France," said Julia Bussell, a sophomore English major. "I got to learn about art where the Renaissance took place – how often do you get to say that?"

There are study abroad opportunites that relate to every field of study. Toni Brasher, a junior international studies and Foreign Language major from Hernando, Mississippi, studied at École Supérieure du Commerce Extérieur in Paris, France. "I wanted to go to improve my French while being able to be completely surrounded by another culture, experiencing it firsthand," said Brasher. "That was very appealing to me."

Stephen Assink, a junior philosophy major from Brookhaven, Mississippi, expressed similar sentiments about studying at Keele University in Stoke-on-Trent, England. "I had always wanted to go, to experience a new culture and see life outside America, the South, and my little hometown," said Assink. "The Luckyday Scholarship gave me that chance to experience these opportunities that only come around once in life."

Students also get free time to travel wherever they want as long as they get back in time for classes. In the past, students have taken independent journeys around Europe and even as far as the Middle East. The programs also try to address financial issues involved with studying abroad, with aid available to everyone enrolled in the university.

The world is a wide and wonderful place, and it is a special thing to be given the opportunity to see it more fully. Through programs that span both the spectrum of college studies and the globe, Southern Miss hopes to continue to share these opportunities with countless generations of students.

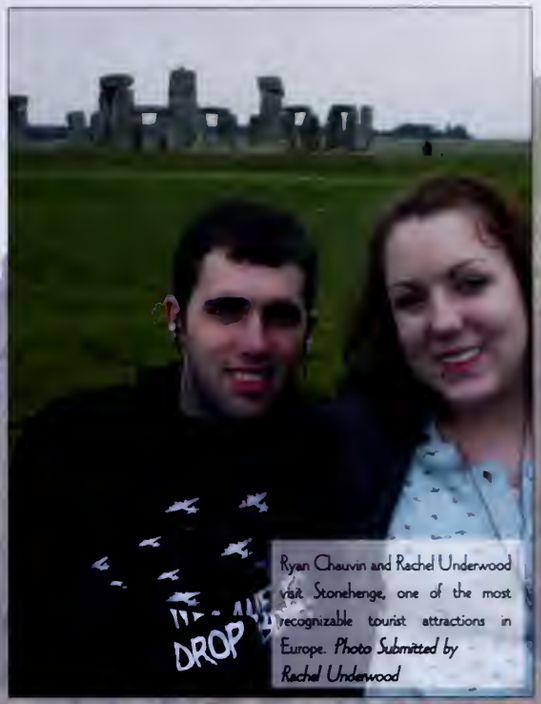
Story by Hannah McInnis



Ryan Chauvin, a junior political science major, and Rachel Underwood, a junior photojournalism major, enjoy the coast near Swansea in Wales. Both spent the entire academic year studying at Swansea University. *Photo Submitted by Rachel Underwood*



Lizzie Maloy, a sophomore graphic design major from Long Beach, Mississippi, attempts to feed the pigeons in the streets of Europe. *Photo Submitted by Lizzie Maloy*



Ryan Chauvin and Rachel Underwood visit Stonehenge, one of the most recognizable tourist attractions in Europe. *Photo Submitted by Rachel Underwood*



Robert Ledbetter, a senior nursing major, and Chad Bush, a junior biochemistry major, re-enact a scene from *Braveheart* in Exeter, England. *Photo Submitted by Chad Bush*



Rachel Underwood and Ryan Chauvin attempt to enter Diagon Alley through Platform 9 3/4 in King's Cross Station in London. *Photo Submitted by Rachel Underwood*



Chad Bush, a junior biochemistry major from Hurley, Mississippi, admires the view of Exeter, England from nearby hills. *Photo Submitted by Chad Bush*



Lizzie Maloy, Laura Messer, and Hannah Rochel cross Abbey Road in imitation of the Beatles. *Photo Submitted by Lizzie Maloy*

Satisfy the Urge

immerse yourself in foreign culture

An effective way for students to define their world and their identities is to discover everything the world has to offer. The Office of International Programs at Southern Miss offers short study abroad programs that last from two weeks to a month. "Students get the opportunity to engage in the daily happenings of foreign countries by being fully emerged in their culture," said Holly Buckney, coordinator of the International Programs.

"Our programs are designed to encourage interaction with locals and to ensure that you're learning with all your senses," said Susan Steen, director of Southern Miss' international educational programs. Short study abroad programs are offered during the spring and winter breaks, as well as the summer, so both undergraduate and graduate students have the opportunity to expand their horizons year-round.

Southern Miss has been a leader in international education for the past 30 years. It is one of two universities in the United States to study religion in Tibet. Other short-term credit abroad programs include British Studies, Caribbean Studies, Mammal Research in Honduras, Art in Italy, Service Learning in Canada, Spanish in Mexico or Spain, French Studies, Vietnam Studies, and Austrian Studies.

Every program specifies their eligibility requirements. Most programs are designed for upper classmen, and financial aid is available. Honors College students are strongly encouraged to take part in study abroad opportunities since scholarships for travel expenses are easily obtained. Luckyday Scholars may also apply for a Luckyday Study Abroad scholarship of $4,000.

Since 1976, an estimated 10,000 students have participated in Southern Miss study abroad programs, which provides students with an outstanding academic, cultural, and professional experience.

The variety of programs offered can satisfy virtually any student regardless of major or minor. Each country allows students to discover and research through many specific programs. The Caribbean Studies programs allows chemistry majors to work with governmentally funded medicinal plants, while English majors study Caribbean literature by learning first hand about the subject matter. Many programs also offer foreign language credit.

"I got to experience media at an international level while being directly exposed to British culture. It definitely increased my confidence," said Haley Lewis, a senior public relations major from Brooklyn, Mississippi. Study abroad programs connect students with the past, prepare them for the future, and allow them to live for the moment.

Story by Jennifer Vital



This group of social work students works with a class in Jamaica. This study abroad program gives students the opportunity to experience the ups and downs of life in a very different culture.



Hillary Lovinggood and Blayne Ward enjoy the view of town from atop the London Eye with two other students during the British Studies program.

"I got to experience media at an **international** level while being directly **exposed** to **British culture**."

Dr. Andrew Weist leads a lecture near a park in London, England. The British Studies program is one of the most successful of the international programs offered.





These monks enter into a discussion outside of a monastary in Sera, Tibet. The Tibet program is led by philosophy and religion professor Dr. Daniel Capper.

These students examine fruits and vegetables at a market in Jamaica. Interacting with locals is highly encouraged to give the full cultural experience.

All Photos Submitted by the Office of International Programs





Annie Newton, a senior English and French major from Hernando, Mississippi serves coffee at Southbound bagel and coffee shop on a regular basis. The expansion of downtown has produced many job opportunities for students.









Dowtown is booming. Whether it be the continued success of shows at the Saenger Theatre, lunchtime crowds packing out the Side Door cafe, the attack of the swans, or the music scene: there's always something goin' down downtown.

All Photos by Calvin Wu



The night time festivities of downtown have amplified over the past few years. Business is great. For those looking for excitement any time of the week, look no further. It's here.

BOOMIN' BUSINESS

thriving off music, art, pubs, clubs, and more

Southern Miss is part of a larger community, its roots extending deep into the city it calls home. At the heart of this community lies downtown Hattiesburg, a burgeoning attraction for students that is rapidly becoming a hub for the arts, entertainment, and dining.

"Seeing new places open up is wonderful," said Pat Fries, a senior mass communications major from Meridian, Mississippi, "And seeing those that are already downtown improve is even better. It's great to see the growing amount of community activities that are now available, be it the Artwalks, HubBub Fest, and now the monthly Pub Crawls, and not to mention the musical acts that have become so common downtown."

The music scene downtown is blossoming. In particular, The Thirsty Hippo, an underground music bar, has grown in popularity, becoming a routine destination for music aficionados.

> "It reminds me a bit of home, and spending days in the French Quarter."

"I am a frequent visitor of The Thirsty Hippo," said sophomore journalism major Patrick Fisackerly from Winona, Mississippi, "I love the atmosphere. The concerts are very intimate, and the music is great. I've discovered bands there that I listen to now on a regular basis. It's by far my favorite place to go downtown."

Like many downtown areas, Hattiesburg features buildings and architecture worth visiting for their own sake. Some students visit downtown just to walk its streets and take in its distinct environment. "As a native of New Orleans I enjoy downtown because of its ambience," said Meryl Dakin, a freshman international studies major from Slidell, Louisiana.

"It reminds me a bit of home, and spending days in the French Quarter. There's also a Saenger Theatre in downtown Hattiesburg, just like in New Orleans, which I found to be pretty cool. I love discovering connections between my old hometown and my new college town. And as a freshman, I look forward to being able to watch downtown Hattiesburg grow."

Story by Bradley Warshauer

Background Photo by Calvin Wu



Photos by Briana Dekemel



Aaron Sackler, a junior accounting major from Hattiesburg, Mississippi, assists a customer at Jack's Outdoors. Business growth in Hattiesburg leads to many work opportunities for students. *Photo by Calvin Wu*



Nicole Burckel, a sophomore general studies major from New Orleans, Louisiana, takes some smoothie orders. *Photo by Calvin Wu*

THE HUB CITY

constantly growing and more happenin' than ever

Hattiesburg is the Hub City: a geographical anomaly, less than two hours away from almost anywhere else worth being, and a place worth being in its own right. Known originally as a major center for rail travel in the South, throughout the past fifty years Hattiesburg has come into its own, blossoming as a city and a cultural hub. In particular, the last year has seen many new additions.

"We are just now getting a lot of businesses that, as a major city in Mississippi, we should have had a long time ago," said Nicolas Areement, a junior administration of justice major from Pearl River, Mississippi and employee of Gander Mountain, one of the new businesses in town. "It's really going to open up a lot of chances for employment and provide citizens of Hattiesburg with more things to do."

Paige McGraw, a junior mass communications and journalism major, agrees that the growth will open up job opportunities for the Hattiesburg area. "With all the new businesses opening up, it's promising to know that as Hattiesburg grows, there will be an economy here to support it."

Plenty of businesses reveal Hattiesburg's trend of continuing growth: the new Starbucks opening on Highway 98 by Turtle Creek Mall, Gander Mountain in the old K-Mart building, Olive Garden, the Target complex, and so on. "I like it because the new buildings that are opening up are causing the rest of the businesses in Hattiesburg to step up and get better. It's a productive cycle for the city," said Kelly Breland, a senior biological sciences major.

Whether a new job opportunity, more things to do, or improving the image of Hattiesburg in general, the expansion going on in Hattiesburg is truly something to be happy about. Britto Caldwell, a senior mass communications and journalism major, commented on all of the changes. "It's exciting to see all the new places to go and things to do here in Hattiesburg. Gander Mountain, Kohl's, all the new buildings in the new shopping center… it's really a great time to be in Hattiesburg."

Story by Alan Wheat



Melissa Strickland and Lindsey Singletery test out one of the beds at Palm Beach Tan. *Photo by Calvin Wu*



Caliente Grille was recently opened by alumnus Charles Arinder. *Photo by Cathy Hayes*

sports

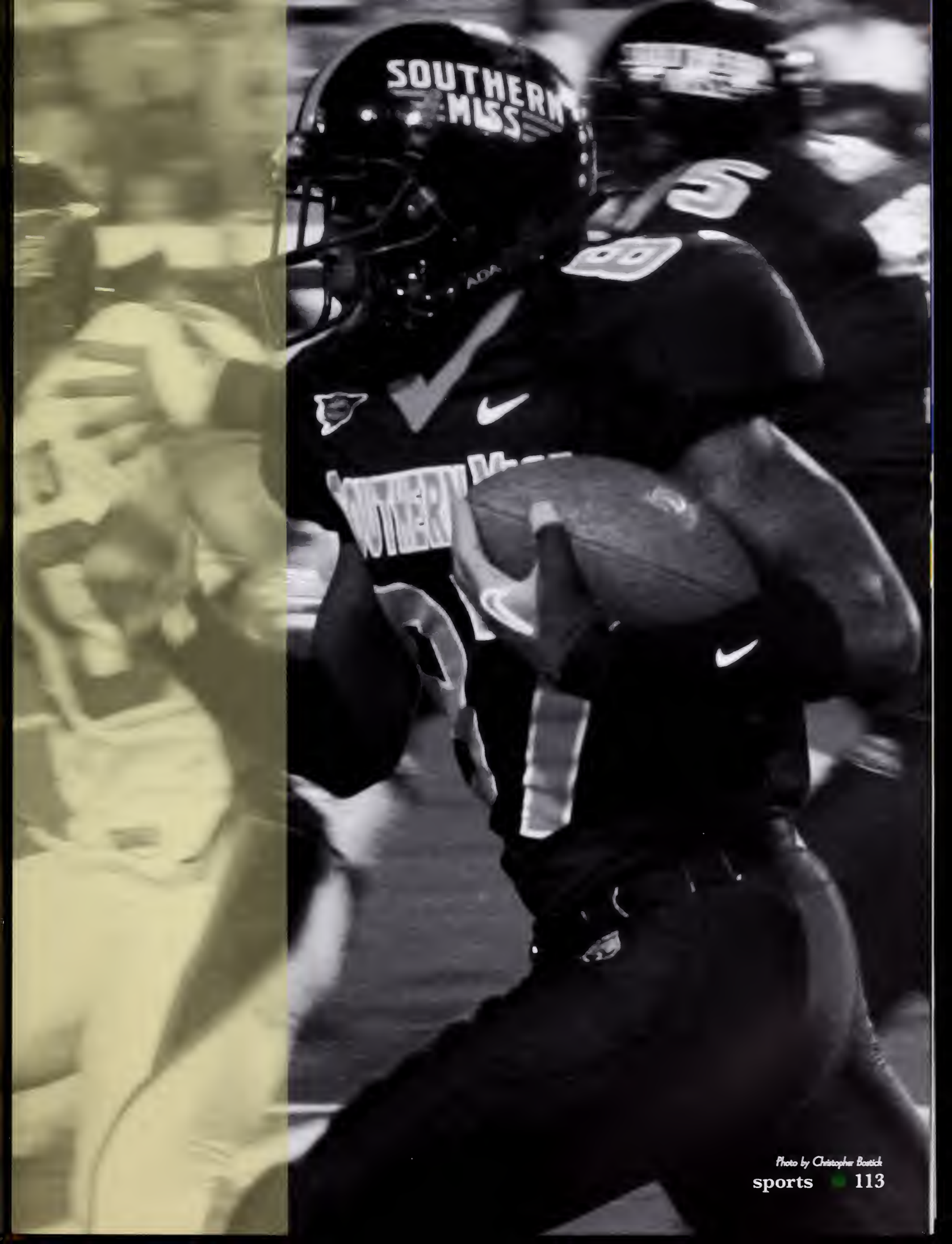


Photo by Christopher Bostick

SECRETS OF SUCCESS

football finishes another winning season

A winning season is a wonderful thing; fourteen consecutive winning seasons is an amazing accomplishment. With a final record of 7-5 this season, the Golden Eagles have secured another winning season.

Such a record wouldn't have been possible without strong leadership from the entire team, especially this year's group of seniors. The defense saw nine returning starters out of last year's eleven, while the offense had five returning starters. The leadership provided by the team's more experienced players was instrumental in the winning season.

"I think it's really good. We set some definite goals, like being undefeated at home. We're trying to overcome adversity, and that's where senior leadership comes in," said junior tight end Shawn Nelson, a native of Gonzales, Louisiana.

Leadership comes in many forms, but for the Golden Eagles, most lead through action. "Some guys lead vocally; me, I like to lead by example," said Jeremy Young. Martevious Prince, a senior defensive tackle from Ft. Pierce, Florida, backs up Young's statement. "Everybody comes out and leads by example. It's a big part of what makes this team work."

Also important is the connection that is made between the players. Without the team acting as a cohesive unit, there is no way the same success would have been achieved.

"You can obviously tell the guys are giving it their all," said Michael Zdancewicz, a junior broadcasting major from Katy, Texas. "They are playing their hearts out in every game, and that shows that not only are they leading by example, but that they want to see each other succeed. That is learned through true leadership."

"We have a great group," said Brandon Sumrall, a senior cornerback from Beaumont, Mississippi. "We're all like brothers and there is a lot of character on the team." The secret of success isn't so strange, then, for the Golden Eagles: hard work, good leaders, and a strong bond.

Story by Alan Wheat



Sophomore Tory Harrison from Leesburg, Florida runs the ball for a first down against Rice.
Photo by Christopher Bostick





Senior Chris Clark from New Orleans, Louisiana gets a fiery talk from offensive line coach Mitch Rodrigue on the sidelines.
Photo by Calvin Wu



Junior Britt Barefoot from Laurel, Mississippi kicks a punt during the Arkansas State game at The Rock.
Photo Sequence by Jaime McKercher

REACHING NEW HEIGHTS

carving the rock

M.M. Roberts Stadium, better known to students and alumni as The Rock, is growing to reach new heights along with Southern Miss athletics and the Golden Eagles football team. On April 14, 2007, the Southern Miss Athletic Department broke ground on the South End Zone Complex at the Rock.

The $31.7 million dollar, five-level South End Zone Complex will include 34 luxury suites with 950 seats; 320 club level seats; 1,900 new bleacher seats with concessions and rest rooms; a new ticket office; and a concourse connecting the east and west side of the stadium.

The expansion also includes a new visiting team locker room; a new officials locker room; a scoreboard operations room, and 10,000 square feet for future academic space. A rooftop plaza caps the facility, which totals 190,500 square feet.

A 530 seat club-level area called the Eagles' Nest is being added between the upper and lower deck on the east side of the stadium.

In addition, a $2.8 million dollar high-definition video scoreboard was installed in the north end zone for the 2007 football season.

"It is a great addition to the football stadium. The skyboxes will bring in more money for the school and it opens up a lot of opportunities," said Matthew Daniel, a freshman theatre major from Starkville, Mississippi.

The South End Zone Complex, scheduled for completion by August 1, 2008 for the 2008 football season, will be a welcome addition to the ever-growing Hattiesburg campus and Southern Miss athletics.

Story by Bradley Glasco



M.M. Roberts Stadium undergoes major expansion construction starting during the summer 2007.
Photo Submitted by the Department of Marketing and Public Relations



Senior Stephen Reaves from Tampa, Florida passes the ball in the game against Southern Methodist University.
Photo by Christopher Bostick



Freshman Torris Magee from Hattiesburg, Mississippi jumps with victory after scoring against Memphis.
Photo by Eric Huckabee



Our defensive line prepares to push back the ball for yards in the game against Memphis.
Photo by Eric Huckabee



Coach Jeff Bower walks with President Saunders and Hattiesburg mayor Johnny Dupree during "Let's Go Walking Mississippi," a community health promotion hosted on campus. *Photo Submitted by the Department of Marketing and Public Relations*



Newly inaugurated head football coach Larry Fedora poses for the cameras after his first press conference. *Photo Submitted by the Department of Marketing and Public Relations*



Coach Jeff Bower gives an interview to the Charter Southeast Sports network after a game at The Rock. *Photo by Eric Huckabee*



Coach Jeff Bower expresses his disagreement with the referee's last call on a play.
Photo by Jaime McKercher



Coach Jeff Bower stands outside of the state-of-the-art Athletic Center on campus. *Photo Submitted by the Department of Marketing and Public Relations*

AN ERA OF CHANGE

bower resigns & larry fedora becomes an eagle

On December 2nd, 1990, Southern Miss hired an offensive coordinator from Oklahoma State University named Jeff Bower as its new head coach. Bower, a Southern Miss graduate and the football team's starting quarterback from 1973 through 1975, was tasked with preserving the Golden Eagles' winning tradition and did so over seventeen hard-fought seasons.

"I think our program on the field has been consistently good," Bower said. "I'm proud of winning four championships and having fourteen straight wining seasons and being to ten bowl games in the last eleven years."

Ironically, the man named to replace Bower as head coach also hails from Oklahoma State University, where he too was the offensive coordinator. Larry Fedora has been given the job of preserving the Jeff Bower legacy and building on it.

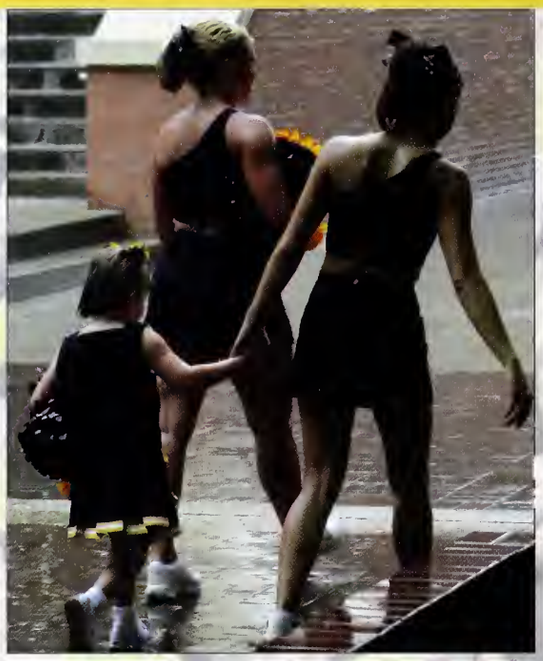
"You can never replace a Jeff Bower," Fedora said. "He is a living legend, who will always be remembered for his contributions to the Southern Miss program and to the university. Coach Bower built a foundation and established a legacy that we will embrace and build upon to bring this program back to a championship level."

Bower's players echo those sentiments. "It's really tough," said defensive back Brandon Sumrall, a senior from Beaumont, Mississippi. "But you live and you move on. Coach Bower is a strong man and we have a strong team, and I think we're going to be all right."

"I'm most proud of what we have done in the classroom," Bower said. "Our graduation rate, I think we've done a pretty darn good job." He added: "The one thing that sticks out to me is the '97 Liberty Bowl. That capped a really good season and may have been the best team we've had."

About stepping down as head coach, Jeff Bower could say little. "It's going to be real strange," he said. Strange, indeed: as Southern Miss continues onward into its next football season and beyond, we will always remember the contributions of Jeff Bower.

Story by Bradley Warshauer

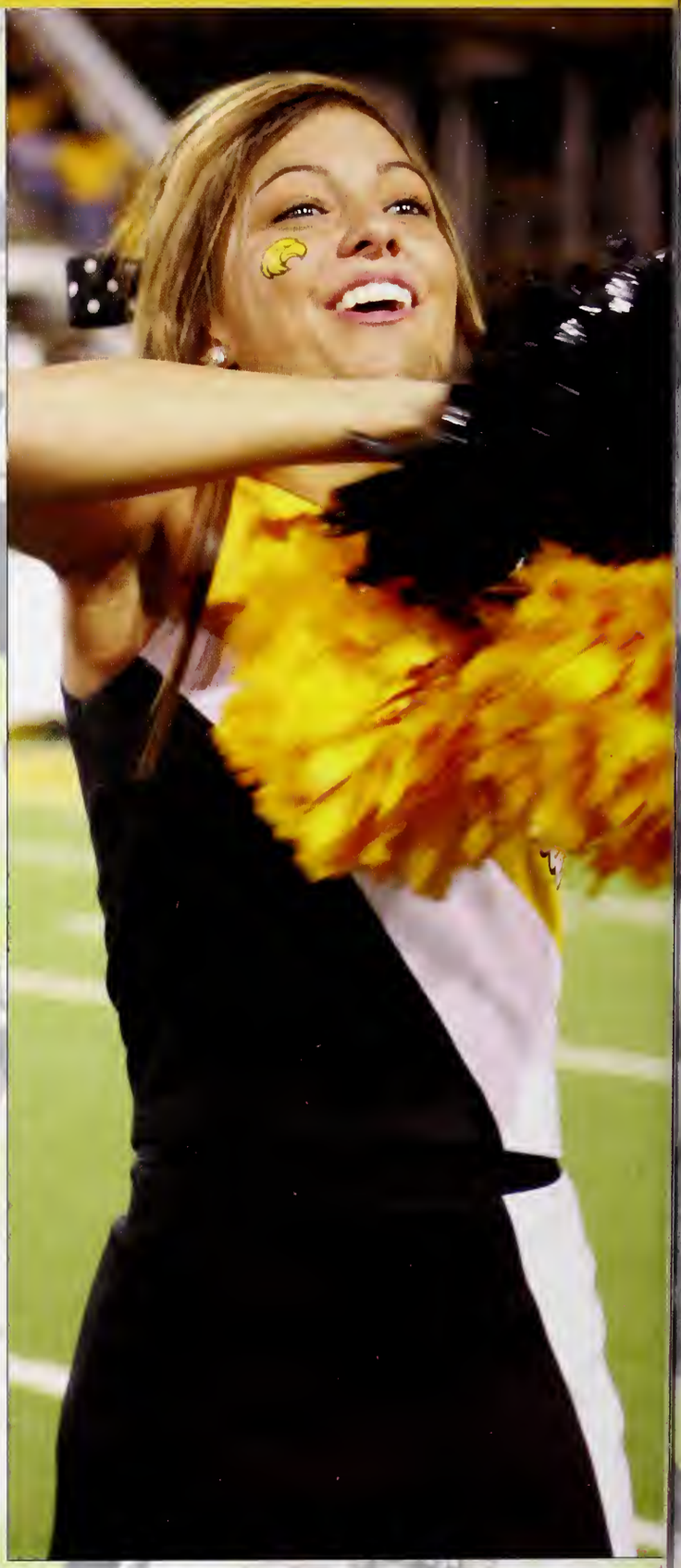


Courtney Shaw guides a future Golden Eagle Cheerleader to the stadium during the rain. Cheerleaders work hard to serve as positive role models to little girls.
Photo by Christopher Bostick



Amanda Van Valkenburg, Shasta Husband, Brittany Lagarde, and Dailee Eubanks invigorate the home crowd during the SMU game as part of the all-girl squad. *Photo by Calvin Wu*

Junior Nicole Twilbeck from Ocean Springs, Mississippi gazes at the student section while cheering at the SMU game. Twilbeck is a office administration major.
Photo by Calvin Wu



REVERBERATING SPIRIT

cheerleaders work to inspire fans

The reverberation of "Black! Gold!" across each side of the Rock is one of the crowd's favorite chants led by the University of Southern Mississippi Cheerleaders. Whether it's Friday Night at the Fountain or Saturday football games at M.M. Roberts Stadium, the cheerleaders are where Golden Eagle spirit truly begins.

The 2007-2008 University of Southern Mississippi Cheerleaders are made up of two teams: co-ed and all-girl. The co-ed squad has eighteen members while the all-girl squad consists of sixteen members, and all of these individuals are extremely talented.

"I love my all- girl team members, the team building and bonding we share is indescribable," said Tabitha Ankerson, a freshman business major from Fairhope, Alabama. Both squads also support the men's and women's basketball teams in Reed Green Coliseum and cheer on the Lady Eagles on the volleyball court.

All of the cheerleaders work hard to inspire students to become spirited fans. They practice several times a week and run before each practice. "Running the mile is rough but keeps us in shape and physically ready for the games," said Brittany Lagarde, a freshmen pre-med emphasis from Slidell, Louisiana.

Aside from game day cheers, the cheerleaders also work on getting their competition routines ready for the University Cheerleading Association College Nationals. The cheerleader's favorite activity however, is giving back to the community. "We do lots of community service at elementary schools and churches and all the young kids that look up to us really makes it all worth while," said Nicole Twilbeck, a junior office administration major from Ocean Springs, Mississippi.

The cheerleaders aren't the only source of spirit on the field: there's not a Southern Miss fan alive who can see Seymour without smiling. Seymour competes in the University Cheerleading Association Mascot National Competition and has also been chosen to be a member of the prestigious Capital One's All-American Mascot team. Capital One only chooses twelve mascots from over two hundred and fifty schools to receive this honor. Seymour is, however, a consummate team player and attends all functions alongside the University of Southern Mississippi Cheerleaders.

Kristen Smith, a senior psychology major said, "Balancing practice, all our events, competition, school, work, and friends and family is very difficult. It has made me a better person in the long run because I am now very organized and I had to grow up really fast. Staying so busy helped me to stay on track and to realize my dream."

Story by Brettany Payne

Background Photo by Calvin Wu



Brittany Lagarde is held up by Hadley Holifield, Kecia Easley, and Lauren Turead during the SMU game. Lagarde gives full trust to her bases during building stunts. *Photo by Calvin Wu*



Kayla Sheasby, Brittany Lagarde, and Amanda Van Valkenburg huddle together to start the fan's favorite cheer: Nasty Bunch. Junior Sheasby serves as a mentor to freshmen Lagarde and Van Valkenburg on the team. *Photo by Calvin Wu*

SHAPING A TEAM

men's basketball

The Golden Eagle basketball team went into this season hoping to build on last year's impressive 20-win campaign, their first since the 2000-2001 season. The Golden Eagles finished 20-11 overall during the 2006-2007 season, with 10 conference wins, six more victories than the previous season. The team averaged 69.3 points per game and completed 66% of their free throws. "We had an amazing season my freshmen year. It's exciting to see how the team continues to improve," said sophomore forward Hank Wierson, a business administration major from Ames, Iowa.

Under head coach Larry Eustachy, the Golden Eagle basketball program has grown into a force to be reckoned with in Conference USA. Coach Eustachy is in his fourth season with the Golden Eagles and looks to continue shaping his team into a highly competitive collegiate presence.

Eustachy helps his players to appreciate the mental aspect of basketball while also encouraging physical toughness. "He's a great coach, we take to heart what he says," said sophomore forward Andre Stephens, a sports administration major from Heidelberg, Mississippi.

The success of the team is visible in the examples of every member. Take for example sophomore guard, Jeremy Wise from Jackson, Mississippi. Wise was named Conference USA Freshman of the Year. His scoring average was the best ever for a freshman at Southern Miss.

The Golden Eagles have come together and have what it takes to be a competitive team on the court. "This year we've become tougher and more patient through effort," said Andre Stephens. "More than ever, we are playing together and sharing shots." This season the Golden Eagles look to continue to set the foundation for a basketball program poised to rise to the top of Conference USA.

Story by Christopher Bostick



Freshman R.L. Horton from Jackson, Mississippi concentrates on a pivotal free throw during a game against Tulane.

All Photos by Christopher Bostick



Freshman R.L. Horton from Jackson, Mississippi dodges his opponents in route to the goal.



Junior Courtney Beasley from Huntsville, Alabama scopes out the court for an open teammate to pass.



Sophomore Jeremy Wise from Jackson, Mississippi travels the court toward the goal.



BUILDING AND IMPROVING

women's basketball

The 2007 season holds the promise of success and growth for the Lady Eagle basketball team. Looking to build and improve on last year's 15-15 record, the team heads into the year with a great deal of optimism and talent.

Head Coach and Southern Miss alumna Joye Lee-McNelis, at her pre-season media day, spoke highly of the growth of the program not only in quality of play, but also in fan support for the team. "We've come so far in so many ways and not just wins and losses. There are so many other factors that play a big part in a successful program and that is putting people in the stands and gaining an interest throughout our community. I believe that's the one factor that has grown by leaps and bounds."

The Lady Eagles not only seek to grow in their performance on the court. Going into the season, the lone senior on the Lady Eagle team, Liz Biland, from Racine, Wisconsin, took the opportunity to reflect on how her career with the Lady Eagles has helped her grow as a player, a person, and a leader. "I knew playing collegiate basketball would be a challenge, but the benefits and relationships gained from it make it all worth while."

According to Biland, "The challenges that you encounter in this sport are similar to the ones that you will also encounter in life and I knew that if I were able to stick with this, it would be great preparation for the real world. I knew that this experience would be difficult, but if it was easy, everyone would do it. It has developed me as a player and more importantly as a person."

Coach McNelis certainly understands how such personal growth can help a team. McNelis sees a bright future for the Lady Eagles as they grow during the seasons ahead.

"I believe as this squad continues to mature and grow and our chemistry continues to develop that this team can be a contender for the Conference USA championship," McNelis said before the season. Certainly, if players and leaders like Biland are any indication, McNelis and the Southern Miss fan-base have good reason to be excited about the Lady Eagles.

Story by Jeffrey Guillot

Background Photo by Christopher Bostick



Freshman Erica Williams from Gonzales, Louisiana pauses in front of her South Alabama opponent before making a play.
Photo by Calvin Wu



Freshman Erica Williams jumps against her opponent to catch a pass during the game against University of Louisiana-Monroe.
Photo by Erin Wojtala



Sophomore Stephanie Helgeson from River Ridge, Louisiana tips the ball towards the net.
Photo by Calvin Wu



Junior Amber Eugene from St. Rose, Louisiana jumps for a side shot at the goal.
Photo by Erin Wojtala





Senior Barry Bowden from Vidalia, Louisiana reaches back for a strong fastball during the opening weekend. Bowden is a business admistration major. *Photo by Christopher Bostick*



Freshman Todd McInnis from Brandon, Mississippi gives a fresh arm to the field. *Photo Sequence by Christopher Bostick*

PITCHING INTO THE SEASON

baseball



Senior Trey Sutton from Hattiesburg, Mississippi keeps an eye on the ball while running the bases. Sutton is a business administration major. *Photo by Christopher Bostick*

Beneath the lights of a renovated Pete Taylor Park, Southern Miss entered the 2008 season attempting to run its streak of consecutive NCAA tournament appearances to six while also competing for the ultimate prize in college baseball—the College World Series in Omaha, Nebraska. Expectations have never been higher and "the Pete" has never looked better.

"The press box and suites have added to our stadium tremendously," head coach Corky Palmer said. "It gives it a new look. I know everyone involved is excited."

The key to a successful college baseball season is often the quality of a team's pitching staff. A few days before the season opened against Lipscomb, Palmer felt he had the arms to get the job done.

"I think this is probably one of the deepest pitching staffs we have had in a long time at Southern Miss," he said. "We have five quality starters and five quality relievers that all have the potential to pitch big games for us."

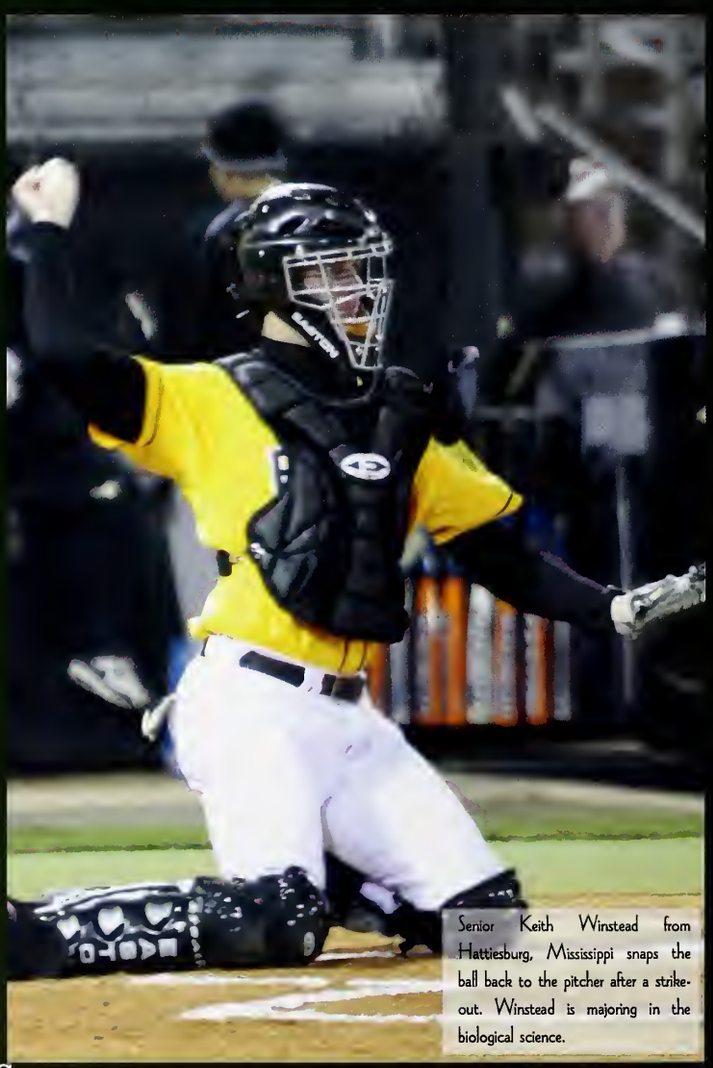
The 2008 Golden Eagles face their toughest schedule in years. "The early part of the season is very demanding," Palmer said. "There's a tough eight-game road streak at Louisiana-Layafette, Cal State Fullerton, Ole Miss and New Orleans, and a neutral site game with Miami of Ohio. But I think we can handle this schedule with our veteran leadership."

That veteran leadership is key. With players like senior Trey Sutton and junior Brian Dozier, both of whom earned preseason All-Conference USA honors, the Eagles should be in good shape.

Story by Bradley Warshauer



Senior Trey Sutton from Hattiesburg, Mississippi tags his opponent out at first base. Sutton is majoring in business administration.



Senior Keith Winstead from Hattiesburg, Mississippi snaps the ball back to the pitcher after a strike-out. Winstead is majoring in the biological science.



Sophomore Kyle Maxie from Hattiesburg, Mississippi steps into a solid swing against Louisiana-Monroe.

Success & Growing Support

upgrading pete taylor park

"Meet ya at the Pete!" is a rallying cry for Southern Miss baseball, and more and more fans have been answering that call every season. In 2007, Southern Miss finished fourteenth in the nation in baseball attendance, averaging more than 3,300 fans per game. As a result of the baseball program's consistent success and growing support, Pete Taylor Park has been the subject of major renovations.

Foremost among those renovations is the addition of luxury suites and a new press box to the stadium's grandstand. This addition has changed the entire look of the Pete, and helps continue to make it one of the best college baseball stadiums in the region.

"It will be one of the best baseball facilities in the country," said Southern Miss athletic director Richard Giannini. "I think [the expansion] will totally change the dynamics of the stadium itself, and it's going to be great for everyone involved."

The Pete continues to grow, with yet another expansion planned. This one, still in preliminary stages, will result in the construction of a new grandstand down the third base line. The grandstand will be filled with chairback seating personalized with the names of those who buy the seat licenses.

"With our demand increasing each season for seats," said head coach Corky Palmer, "this project allows more fans an opportunity to see Golden Eagle baseball."

Richard Giannini echoes the sentiments of many on the growth of Pete Taylor Park. "The construction has become a reality," he said. "And we're really excited."

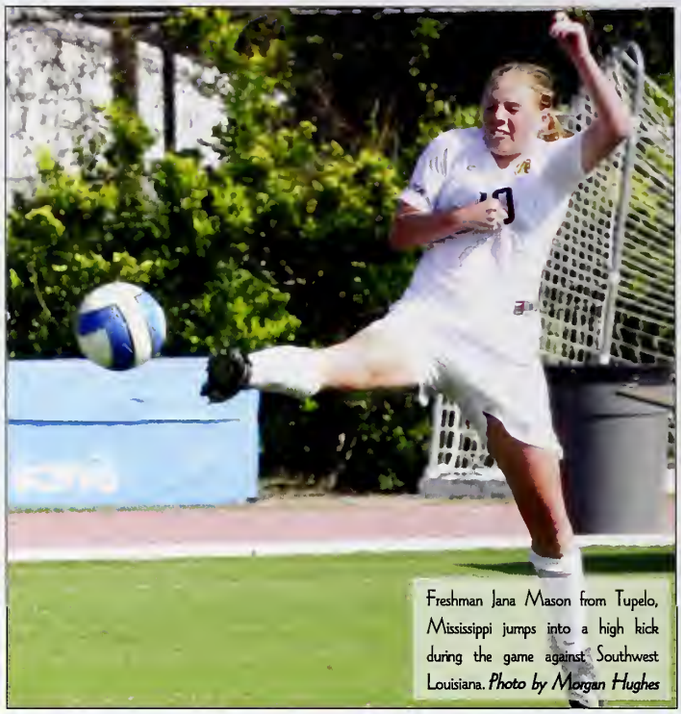
Story by Bradley Warshauer



Upgrades at Pete Taylor Park allow fans to enjoy baseball games in the luxury of press boxes.
All Photos by Christopher Bostick



Sophomore Daniela Picado from Meridian, Mississippi looks at her options on the field during the Jackson State game. *Photo by Christopher Bostick*



Freshman Jana Mason from Tupelo, Mississippi jumps into a high kick during the game against Southwest Louisiana. *Photo by Morgan Hughes*



Freshman Jana Mason from Tupelo, Mississippi pushes her Mississippi Valley State opponent to gain control of the ball. *Photo by Christy Dyess*



Senior Jackie Ryan from Snellville, Georgia gets a strong lead on her opponents. *Photo by Christy Dyess*

PASSION ON THE FIELD

soccer pushes into playoffs


Sophomore Liz Hamlin from Kenner, Louisiana swipes the ball from her opponent *Photo by Christy Dyess*



The ladies of the Golden Eagle soccer team do more than give a few kicks during a game. They juggle school, practice, family and friends, not to mention life's everyday troubles: these girls have a lot on their plate. However, soccer has helped them to grow, and taught them how to keep their life balanced.

Captain Jackie Ryan, a senior exercise science major from Snellville, Georgia, said soccer was the reason she chose her major. "Being an athlete for 15 years and pushing through all the training and the injuries made me realize that I wanted to be a physical therapist," she said.

Megan Kolts, a senior physical education major from Suwanee, Georgia, said soccer influenced her decisions during her college career. "To be on the team you are obligated to follow rules," Kolts said.

For the ladies of Southern Miss' soccer team, the sport goes beyond love to devotion. Despite the intensity and focus it requires, the members of the team wouldn't have it any other way. "Soccer is pretty much my life," said Kolts. "I grew up with it and I don't know what I would do if I went to school and didn't play."

These athletes are required to have study hall hours which helps them keep up with their academics. "It is not easy being a student-athlete in college. It has forced me to always stay motivated and be organized," said Ryan.

Kolts said she couldn't keep up with all her work without some help from her loved ones. "It helps to have good stress management skills and a lot of friends, family, and other sources such as tutors to help me throughout school."

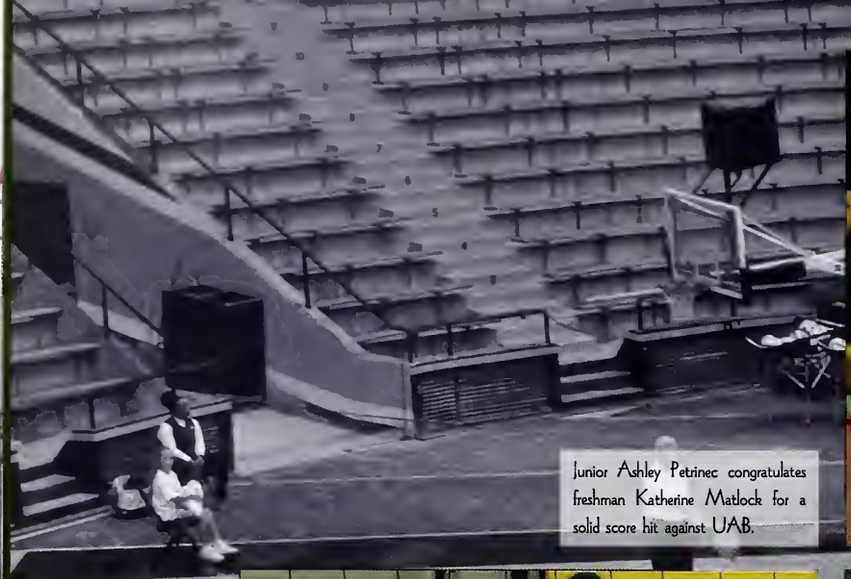
Freshman Sam Polley, from Louisville, Kentucky said soccer has helped her to mature and grow as a person. "It has taught me more about commitment and responsibility. Being a part of a team, everyone relies on everyone else."

Soccer has given these girls strong muscles, and also strong minds. "It really has helped me learn patience. It teaches you to keep your head in the game, and not to let your emotions get in the way."

"It takes a certain kind of person to pursue a dream like this. It makes you grow up and face things you never thought you could face," said Ryan. As captain she has a lot to handle, such as moderating confrontations as both a teammate and a friend.

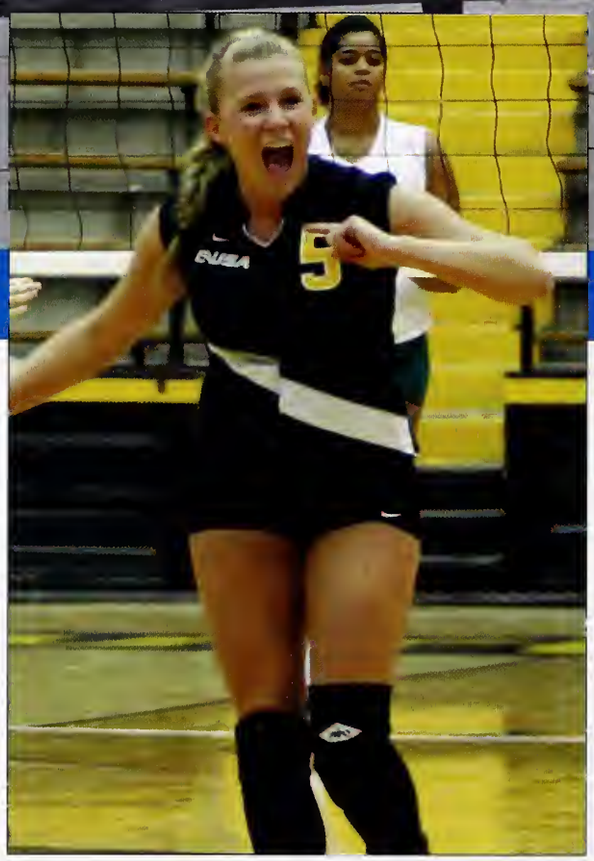
This year, the team made the playoffs for the first time in the past seven years. The optimistic attitudes of the players and their "die on the field" passion helped the team make it all the way to the conference tournament this year, according to Ryan. "Our outlook, hard work, and will to win has grown drastically and that is what pushed us through this year."

Story by Tamora McConnell



Junior Ashley Petrinec congratulates freshman Katherine Matlock for a solid score hit against UAB.





Katherine Matlock, a freshman from Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, turns to her team to celebrate a strong first half at the game before the girls take a break.



Senior sport administration major Morgan Johnson jumps high to strike the volleyball from her middle blocker position on the court. Johnson is from Benton, Illinois.



The team keeps their spirits high around sophomore sport administration major Angela Hlavaty from Lincoln, Nebraska after a strong kill.

SHARPENING SKILLS

lady eagle volleyball represents

Every athletic team on campus gets the opportunity to make their mark, not only through the points they score during their games, but also through helping the campus as a whole. This can be seen through the team's good sportsmanship, determination, and dedication to the sport and the school.

The Lady Eagle's volleyball team offers its players a chance to sharpen their skills and represent their university while forging a lifelong bond of camaraderie through games, practices, and competitions. The Lady Eagles work diligently to instill a solid grasp of technique and work ethic in all their players, and the sense of family the team fosters is clear.

"There is definitely a bond between my teammates and me. None of us are really from around here, so we are like each other's family when we are at school. I think of them like sisters," said Ashley Petrince, a member of the Lady Eagles and a junior computer science major from Bloomington, Illinois.

The team is highly disciplined and holds frequent practices in the Payne Center, with practices lasting at least an hour a day. Between practices, games, and school itself, the Lady Eagles should be called acrobats as well as athletes. They are expected to juggle their social lives, classes, and volleyball while keeping both their game and grades up to par.

"It is very difficult to balance volleyball, my grades, and my social life but I've learned how to manage my time very well. I get my school work done at certain times, work around volleyball, and still manage to hang out with my friends whenever I get a chance...and it helps that most of my friends are my teammates," said Petrince.

"I think that college volleyball has pushed me to make responsible decisions in anything I do," she said. "It has pushed me to become motivated and dedicated, and I wouldn't have achieved that doing anything else."

Cool heads and quick hands, dedication of body and devotion of spirit: there can be no doubt that with each game the hype grows alongside the team itself.

Story by Hannah McInnis



Senior psychology major Mari Ruddick from Santta Clarita, California jumps up for a solid hit during the game.

All Photos by Christy Dyess

SLIDING HOME

softball

Seeking to rebound off a 18-38 finish last season, the Lady Eagles have added new talent across the board and returned several key seniors. However, the most important addition to the team comes in the form of head coach Howard Dobson, who takes charge this season as the fifth head coach in the program's history.

At his press conference, coach Dobson spoke positively about the season ahead. "We plan to win more and dominate the conference the best we can in an effort to move on to post season play. Getting to the big show is our main goal."

Dobson believes that bringing in the right players and helping them grow, both on and off the field, is crucial to having a successful program.

"We are bringing in young ladies that we are proud of and that will represent this university and this team. They are girls that you will want to come out and see play. That's the kind of team that we're going to build, the kind of program we're going to establish, and the kind of young ladies that will succeed on the field and in their life."

Shortstop Kristin Chaney, from Little Rock, Mississippi, appreciates the opportunities that softball has given her to grow. "I have met some of my best friends through softball. I have also been able to travel the United States and experience things I would have never been able to experience without playing ball here."

Outfielder Allison Bullard, a native of Columbus, Georgia, is thankful for the opportunities softball has given her to shape her future. "The opportunities I have are just beginning with the people I have met here. I am in the field of exercise science and sport performance, and I have made connections with coaches all over the United States for my internship that I will be doing this summer."

Bullard believes that her personal growth has been affected, as well. "Softball kept me focused throughout school. It has also made me a very prompt person in everything that I do. I have matured greatly since playing on a collegiate level."

Story by Jeffrey Guillot

Background Photo by Christopher Bostick



Freshman Meghan Harbuck from Mobile, Alabama steps into a pitch during a home game.
Photo by Christopher Bostick



Junior Kristin Pilgrim from Metairie, Louisiana snaps the softball back to the pitcher after a strong strike. *Photo by Lindsey Robinson*



Senior Shea Naramore from Gulfport, Mississippi reaches far for a powerful pitch. *Photo by Calvin Wu*



Senior Kristin Chaney from Little Rock, Mississippi slides safely into second base. *Photo by Christopher Bostick*

SMASHING RACKETS

tennis

In honor of the sport's multicultural origin, Southern Miss' tennis team includes players from South America and the United Kingdom in addition to American students.

"I think that it is great to have a balance between everything, because you're always going to have things in your life that you need to juggle," said captain Ali Blackett, a senior psychology major from Bristol, United Kingdom.

"It's not easy learning how to balance everything though, because you have to sacrifice some things to get others. But in the end, you learn to be responsible and enjoy every activity," said Natalia Parrado Ontibon, a senior architectural engineering major from Bogotá, Colombia.

The diversity of the players has made them into a unique family. "The team is absolutely the dream team. I have never belonged to something so right, so focused and so fun," said Shannon Rogers, a freshman sports management major from Virginia Beach, Virginia.

The team has grown to become one. Not only do the athletes worry about their performance on the court but also their behavior outside of the sports world. "I have become more responsible in my decision-making because I don't want to make the tennis team or athletes in general look bad," said Stephanie Dellocono, a sophomore business administration major from Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

The chemistry and bond between the players will not only last throughout their college careers, but for the rest of their lives. Dellocono said, "I know that I am going to keep in touch with these girls forever and maybe play a match or two sometime when we're fat and old."

Story by Tamora McConnell



Sophomore Strate Krstevski from Skopje, Macedonia makes a jump for a strong hit during a home match.
All Photos Submitted by Athletics Media Relations



Junior Domagoj Anic from Zagreb, Croatia reaches for a low hit at a match. Anic is a business administration major.



Senior Natalia Parrado from Bogota, Columbia reaches around for a solid backhand. Parrado is majoring in architectural engineering technology.



Senior Sherry Price from Bradenton, Florida waits for her hit. Price is a radio, television, and film major.

SWINGS ON THE GREEN

golf

Based out of Canebreak Country Club in Hattiesburg, Southern Miss golf aims to compete at the highest levels. "I want to give our players a chance to compete against the best possible teams they can," said women's head coach, Julie Gallup. "Conference USA is one of the strongest in the country."

Both golf squads are looking to improve their standing in the conference. "It will take a little time," said men's coach, Jerry Weeks, "but we are looking forward to that time. We have to keep adding quality players and continue to work hard, and it will enable us to get where we want to be."

Golf doesn't always draw the support of programs like football or baseball, yet it has increasingly turned into a spectator sport, with several different levels of professional and amateur tours in many regions of the world. Sponsorship has also become a huge part of the sport and players often earn more from their sponsorship contracts than they do from the sport itself.

Before this season, Dr. Paul Apyan, the father of men's team member Paul Apyan, gave the golf team a van, customized for their use. "I asked coach Weeks what we could do to help the golf team," Dr. Apyan said, "and we came up with this idea which means no more rental vans for them. They can travel comfortably, feel better about themselves and play well."

Golf requires precision in every movement and continual practice to improve grip, swing, and body alignment. Variations to the grip can affect ball height, while the position of the ball, feet, hips and shoulders properly ensures a good swing foundation. Both teams must also focus on their shoulders since the swing path follows the alignment of the shoulders at impact.

Before the 2008 season began, Athletic Director Richard Giannini was optimistic about the progress of the golf teams. "I look forward to seeing the success of the men's golf program this year after finishing third in Conference USA last season, the highest our men's team has ever finished," Giannini said. "It's an exciting time to be a part of Southern Miss Athletics and the golf program."

Story by Bradley Warshauer and Jennifer Vital

Background Photo by Christy Dyess



Freshman Freddie Janneck from Madison, Mississippi reads the green before putting.
Photo by Christy Dyess



Junior Rocky Cleland from Hattiesburg, Mississippi perfects his posture before putting.
Photo by Christy Dyess



Freshman Freddie Janneck from Madison, Mississippi holds his breath as the ball nears the hole.
Photo by Cathy Hayes



Junior Rocky Cleland from Hattiesburg, Mississippi shakes hands with his opponents in the Sam H. Hall Golf Tournament.
Photo by Christy Dyess



Junior Ahmed Abdelzaher from Giza, Egypt concentrates on his landing while pole vaulting.
Photo by Brettany Payne

GOING THE DISTANCE

track & cross country

Track and field is a collection of sports events that include sprints, jumps, throws, hurdles, relays and distance. "Continual effort and hard work have really shaped me into a better athlete and person," said Derrick Collins, a junior sports administration major from Gulfport, Mississippi.

There are two seasons for track and field. There is an indoor season during the winter and an outdoor season during the spring and summer. Most tracks are ovals of 400 meters in circumference and consist of six to ten lanes. In field events, meets feature the high jump, pole vault, long jump, triple jump, and shot put. There is also the longer throw of javelin, hammer and discus.

For multi-event athletes there is the pentathlon for women (consisting of 60 m hurdles, high jump, shot put, long jump and 800 m) and heptathlon for men (consisting of 60 m, long jump, shot put, high jump, 60 m hurdles, pole vault and 1000 m) indoors. Leonard Mcleggon from St. Catherine, Jamaica made an impressive comeback from almost being paralyzed to finishing second in the heptathlon at the LSU Indoor Meet.

Besides practices, studying, and meets, the members of the track team also focus on helping others grow. A free clinic was offered this year to all coaches and athletes, ages 10 through 18. Participants received instruction in all phases of track and field.

"This year has brought a lot of positive change," said Cassandra Goodson, the team's assistant coach. "We are hoping to place at Conference USA under our new head coach." Coach Kevin Stephen, who just completed his eighth season as an assistant coach on the Southern Miss track and field coaching staff, became the school's third head track and field coach on July 25, 2007.

Men and women do not compete against each other, although they run in the same meets. Women generally run the same distances as men, though hurdles and steeplechase barriers are lower and the weights of the shot put, discus, javelin and hammer are lessened.

"I was not able to high jump for two years since my community college did not have a track team," said Tiffany Hubbard, a junior coaching major from Vicksburg, Mississippi. "It has been hard to get back into shape, but I wouldn't want to spend my time doing anything else."

Story by Jennifer Vital
Background Photo by Brettany Payne



Junior Danny Banks, freshman Jordon Smith and junior Derrick Collins plow through the starting line on the track.
Photo by Brettany Payne



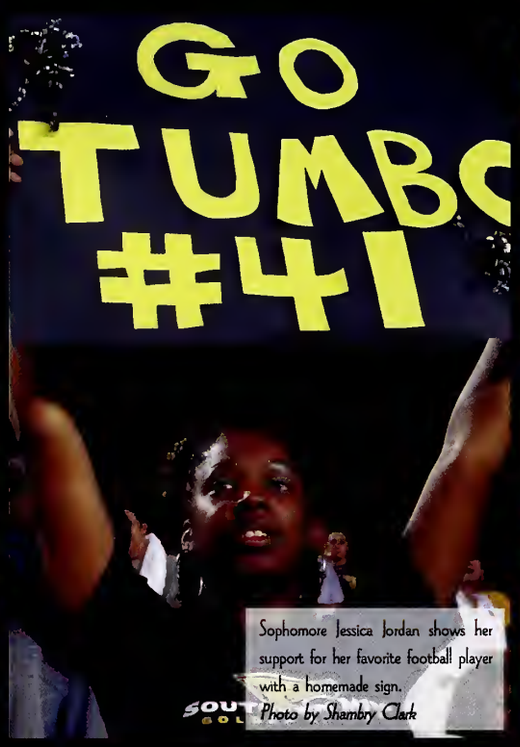
Junior LaSheika Dinkins from Memphis, Tennessee paces herself through a cross-country run.
Photo by Christy Dyess



Sophomore Ashley May from Hoover, Alabama takes a practice jump for distance.
Photo by Brettany Payne



Freshman Tori Martin from Vicksburg, Mississippi supports her Eagles at an ESPN televised football game. Martin is a speech pathology major. *Photo by Calvin Wu*



Sophomore Jessica Jordan shows her support for her favorite football player with a homemade sign. *Photo by Shambry Clark*



Senior Erin Gilbert from Pascagoula, Mississippi hopes to catch ESPN cameras during a televised football game. Gilbert is a speech and hearing sciences major. *Photo by Christopher Bostick*



This fan reaches high with excitement after a touchdown at The Rock. *Photo by Christopher Bostick*

WE BLEED BLACK & GOLD

fans excited to support athletics growth

"Go Gold!" is a rallying cry on game day, when fans flock to Hattiesburg by the thousands week after week to see their Golden Eagles take to the field or the court. With a growing student body and an ever-evolving set of traditions, Golden Eagle fans don't limit their game day activities to throwing on a t-shirt.

"I'm not a superstitious person until it comes to sports," said Neil Rogers, a junior political science major from Magee, Mississippi. "I always arrive at games at a certain time before they start, and I always sit in the same spot. And I've had the same Go Gold shirt since I was in eleventh grade."

Athletics at Southern Miss are about more than superstitions and game day routines. College sports can solidify a special emotional bond between students and their university, a bond that only strengthens with time. Many students are lifelong fans of Golden Eagle athletics.

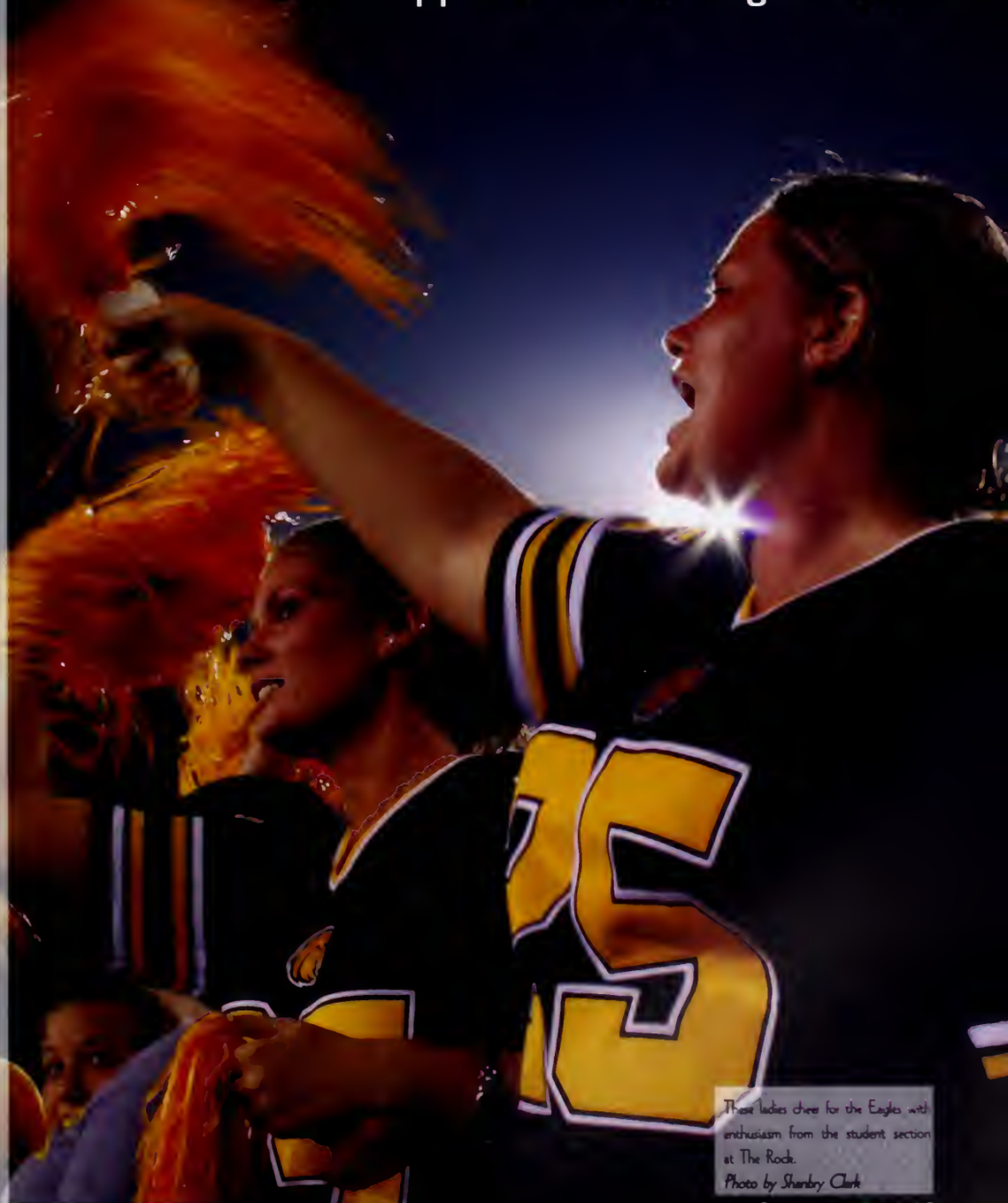
"I've been a Southern Miss fan since I was born," Rogers said. "For me, being a fan means supporting a program that does something amazing with the resources it has. I know that everyone involved in Southern Miss athletics has worked hard to get to where they are."

Student support for sports other than football is growing as well, with more and more fans packing stadiums across campus. "Vollcyball is one of my favorite sports," said Shawn Foles, a junior forensic science major from Saucier, Mississippi. "I respect how hard the girls work to perform at their best in an area of the country where volleyball is not always considered a major sport."

Foles also talked about the rapid growth of student support for the men's basketball program, which has been rebuilt under head coach Larry Eustachy. "We have the Larry's Loonies now," he said. "It started out with just a small group of guys going to the basketball games. Larry Eustachy and the team started letting them know they were appreciated. Little by little each person brought a friend and it kind of grew from there."

Across campus, student support for Southern Miss athletics is exploding, and fans feel privileged to be a part of that growth. "I think is one of the most loyal fan bases in America," Rogers said. "We have a core group of fans that bleed black and gold, and that's an awesome community to be a part of."

Story by Bradley Warshauer



These ladies cheer for the Eagles with enthusiasm from the student section at The Rock.
Photo by Shanbry Clark

MOVES FOR SPIRIT

southern misses spirit squad



Sophomore nursing major Shannon Hauptmann from Mandeville, Louisianna performs the dance to Micheal Jackson's "Thriller" during a special Halloween Friday Night at the Fountain.
Photo by Christopher Bostick

The University of Southern Mississippi grows in different ways. One of the school's younger programs, the Southern Misses, is a group that takes pride in the way that it adds to the spirit of campus life in the university.

"We're mainly a spirit squad," said coach Bridgett Hunt, "We work hand in hand with the athletic department."

Unlike the Dixie Darlings, the Southern Misses concentrate on men and women's basketball, and have only been around since the early eighties. There are high expectations between the coach and the girls; each member is required to have a high level of dedication to be in the group.

"If you're a mediocre dancer, then you probably won't fit in the group," said Bridgett. "We work very hard, and take this seriously."

The group practices at least three to four times a week, and the members are expected to work out on their own between every practice. And just because a girl has a spot on the team one year does not mean that she has a spot the next.

"We run from April to April, and they are expected to keep up the pace between," said Bridgett.

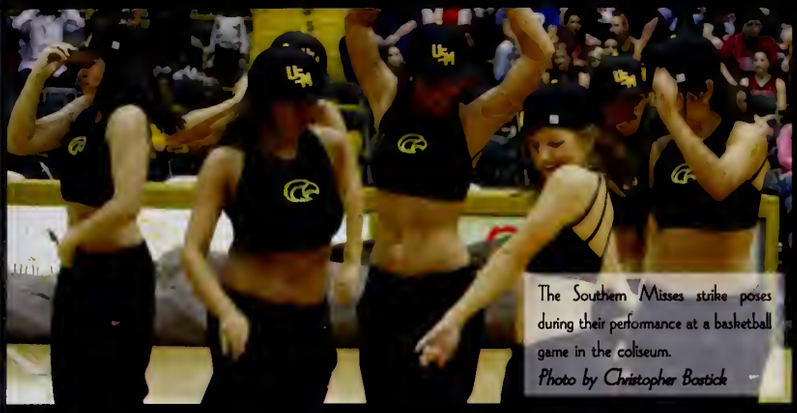
Although the Southern Misses mainly concentrate on the basketball team, they do make various appearances with other events including fund-raising, pep rallies, football games, community service and alumni pep rallies.

"We want more alumni awareness, since we are a new organization when compared to the Dixie Darlings. That's one reason why we work so hard," said Bridgett.

Each year, the team's talent rises with their expectations, and it is widely felt that this year's team is the most talented that the Southern Misses have seen so far. They will be competing at Nationals in Orlando for the first time– their first competition outside the annual summer competitions at the University of Alabama.

The group also helps the girls in their career choices. Since they have to balance this with school and their social lives, it helps with time management, leadership, and responsibility; it also helps build a stronger sisterhood, as they spend so much time together. Their main goal is to spread team spirit and to encourage people to come to various athletic events – each time, a bit stronger than the last.

Story by Hannah McInnis



The Southern Misses strike poses during their performance at a basketball game in the coliseum. *Photo by Christopher Bostick*



Freshman Christine Kozlowski from D'Iberville, Mississippi kicks boldly while performing at Friday Night at the Fountain. *Photo by Calvin Wu*



Junior Saybhr Caillavet from Biloxi, Mississippi cheers to excite the crowd at a pep rally beside The Rock. *Photo by Christy Dyess*



Senior Alyse Stephens from Bay St. Louis, Mississippi leads fellow dancers up the basketball court in a strut. *Photo by Christopher Bostick*

organizations



Photo by Eric Huckabee

FEEL THE RHYTHM

the pride

The Pride of Mississippi: a bold claim that began over 87 years ago as a twenty person ensemble, and has since evolved into a nationally-recognized band with over three hundred members. Today, the Pride is one of the most prestigious organizations on campus and beyond, and has received more media exposure than any other band in the region.

The Pride participates in many activities to sharpen their skills and recruit future students, such as playing as an exhibition band in high school band competitions. They also play host to All-South Marching Band Day, an event that recruits students from across the region to practice and perform with the Pride.

Each season, the Pride prepares three to five different shows that they then perform at halftime. Perfecting these shows is an arduous task: band camp begins the week before classes, and afterwards the Pride practices three to four times a week, with additional focus during game weeks.

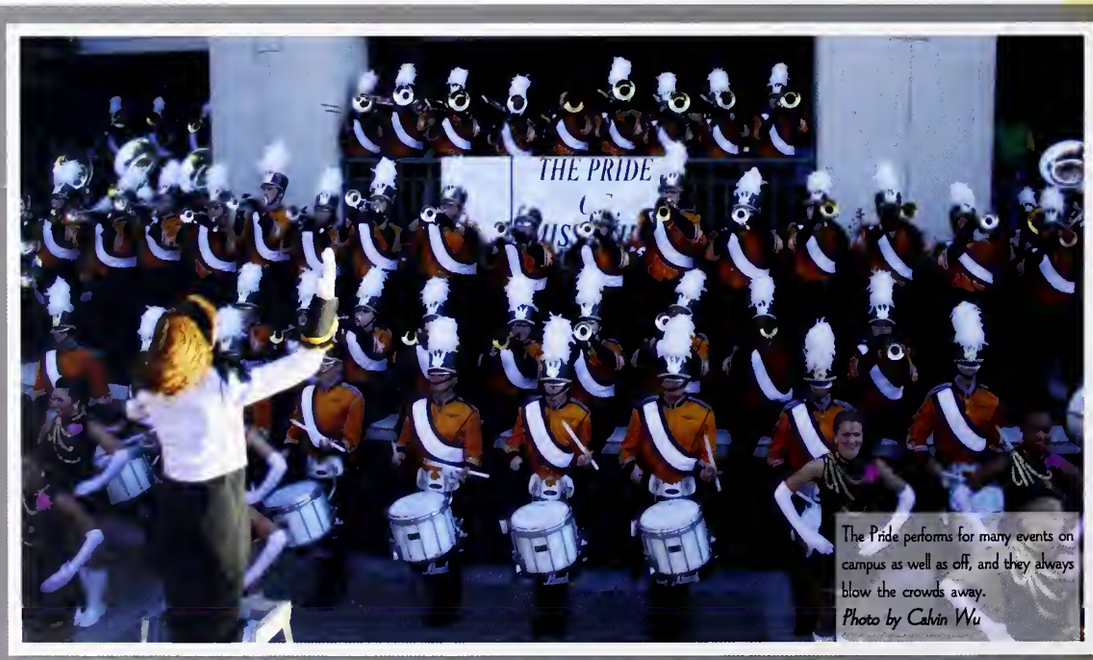
In terms of composition, the Pride is currently made up of a nearly 50/50 split between music majors and non-music majors. Auditions are open to all students regardless of major, but both music students and others are expected to show the level of dedication and expertise the band demands.

"I love it. Everyone gives it all they've got in the Pride. For a lot of us, music is what we're going to be doing for the rest of our lives," said Amanda Chunn, a freshman music education major from Mobile, Alabama. "You're expected to be up to quality, whether you're a music major or not."

With more than three hundred students, though, the Pride is not only one of the most well-known organizations, but also one of the largest. The group has proven to be an excellent way for freshmen to get used to college life.

"None of my friends from high school came here to Southern, so I was brand new and I didn't know anyone," said Lucy Chilcutt, a freshman elementary education major from Columbus, Mississippi. "The best friends I made since I got here, I made in the Pride. We already shared a common interest, music, and it all just developed from there."

Story by Elliott Freeman



The Pride performs for many events on campus as well as off, and they always blow the crowds away.
Photo by Calvin Wu









Drum major Chris Lyman, a senior Human Performance and Recreation major from Mobile, Alabama, leads the Pride during their practice time on Pride Field.
Photo Sequence by Calvin Wu



Photo by Calvin Wu



Photo by Calvin Wu



Photo by Calvin Wu

The drumline warms up for their Eagle Walk performance. It is tradition for the Pride, along with the cheerleaders, the football team, and the Dixie Darlings, to march through campus to pump up the fans for every home game. Photo by Christy Dyess

The Darlings of the Danceline

the dixie darlings

Along with acting as a medium for school spirit and playing a major role in Southern Miss football since their inception in 1954, the Dixie Darlings have become a dance team with national and international notoriety, and act as an advocate of the university wherever they may perform.

According to Tracy Smith, the director of the Dixie Darlings, the notoriety of the group began in the 60's and 70's as the Pride and the Dixie Darlings shared many nationally televised performances. The popularity of the group continued to increase as the program and the university continued to grow, leading to their appearance in many arenas outside of the confines of campus.

"They were one of the most popular college groups in the nation," said Smith. "The Dixie Darlings have performed all over the United States and even abroad."

While football games and the Dixie Darlings were intimately bound in the initial years of the program, the team has expanded its performances to include other university related events like the opening of the Thad Cochran Center and the reception for Dr. Saunders, as well as other non-university based community events.

As the array of performances for the Dixie Darlings increased through the years, so did the number of dance styles incorporated into the program. Now, in addition to the more traditional dances the group began with over 50 years ago, the repertoire includes dances from a multitude of genres including but not limited to jazz, hip-hop, and novelty style routines, according to Smith. However, even with the increase in depth seen in the program, the number of dancers has remained relatively high and it has required true talent and incredible instruction to retain the program's precision quality performances.

According to Tasia Poyadou, a sophomore biological sciences major and Dixie Darling, the program has not only allowed her to enjoy herself performing at all of these various venues, but has also taught her much about herself and what it means to be a part of something bigger.

"Being a member of this team has allowed me to travel to many different states, but has also taught me discipline, time management, and perseverance," said Poyadou. "More importantly, I have gained so many friends and had so many amazing experiences that I will always remember."

Story by Chris Mills

Background Photo by Calvin Wu



The Dixie Darlings pose as part of halftime at The Rock, joining the Pride to provide the home crowd with mid-game entertainment.

Photo by Jaime McKercher

"I have gained so many friends and so many amazing experiences"



[illegible] for the Homecoming parade. During Homecoming, multiple generations of Dixie Darlings gather to celebrate the program's history.
Photo by Calvin Wil[illegible]



Cassie Zimmerman, a freshman Dixie Darli[illegible] during the Homecom[illegible]ce. The Dixie Darlings [illegible]l spirit for Southern [illegible] alumni alike.
Photo by [illegible]



Rebekah Barclay, Giani Reid, [illegible] Poothilil, Jerami Goodman and Hi[illegible]ary Calhoun in mid-leap during an outdoor pep-rally.
Photo by Christy Dyess

Working Through Worship

wesley foundation

The United Methodist Student Ministry's Wesley Foundation provides a place on campus for student rest, relaxation, fun, and worship. "The Wesley Foundation is a place for students to further their relationship with God," said Wesley Tapp, a senior therapeutic recreation major from Hattiesburg, Mississippi. "One of the great things about the Wesley Foundation is that we all come from different religious backgrounds, whether it be Methodist, Baptist or non-denominational."

Both Tapp and Joy Easterling, a sophomore elementary education major from Mobile, Alabama, said the Wesley Foundation's biggest goal of the year was to send over twenty students on a mission trip to Central America.

The members seek to raise enough money for twenty-three of them to go to Costa Rica this spring break for a mission trip. "We are talking to local churches about our trip and even to our own personal home churches in hopes that we will be able to make it," said Easterling.

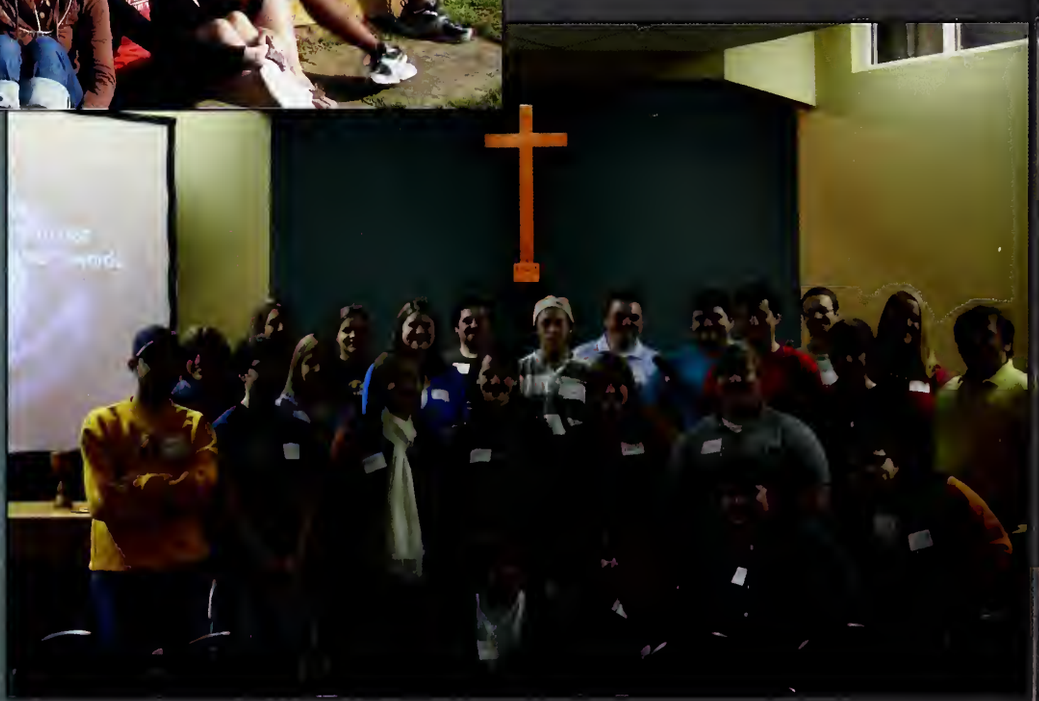
"We want to help build a youth camp," Tapp said. "At the Wesley Foundation we strive to give people a home away from home, somewhere to come and relax."

The Wesley Foundation strives every year to grow into a greater part of the Golden Eagle community.

Story by Bradley Warshauer



The Wesley Foundation prides itself on members becoming involved in the greater Methodist community and becoming closer through retreats and weekly organizational meetings.
Photo Submitted by the Wesley Foundation



The Wesley Foundation meets weekly to provide its members a period of relaxation and reflection amidst the trials and struggles of weekly class schedules.
Photo by Chris Mills

A Place to Belong

baptist student union

Finding a place to belong on campus is a pivotal aspect of the lives of college students, and for many, religious affiliations serve as a bridge between their childhood homes and their college dwellings.

The Baptist Student Union (BSU) has been a part of the student experience at Southern Miss for decades, and since its establishment, it has brought countless students together through service, spiritual growth, and worship.

"The BSU is a great place for students and faculty members to join in fellowship with other Christians on campus," said Laura Bullock, a sophomore film major from Stuttgart, Germany. "It is so important for us to have a place where we can gather to meet and worship; college is difficult and stressful and so often we push God to the back of our minds during the school day."

According to Hope Stanford, a Sophomore Deaf Education major from Tyler, Texas, the BSU helps students grow into their new positions in society as purveyors of knowledge by binding them to other students through a central spiritual thread as well as acting as a networking center for them to meet other people in their specified fields of interest.

Stanford said, "My membership at the BSU has helped me to become a better student since the first week of freshman year."

Story by Chris Mills



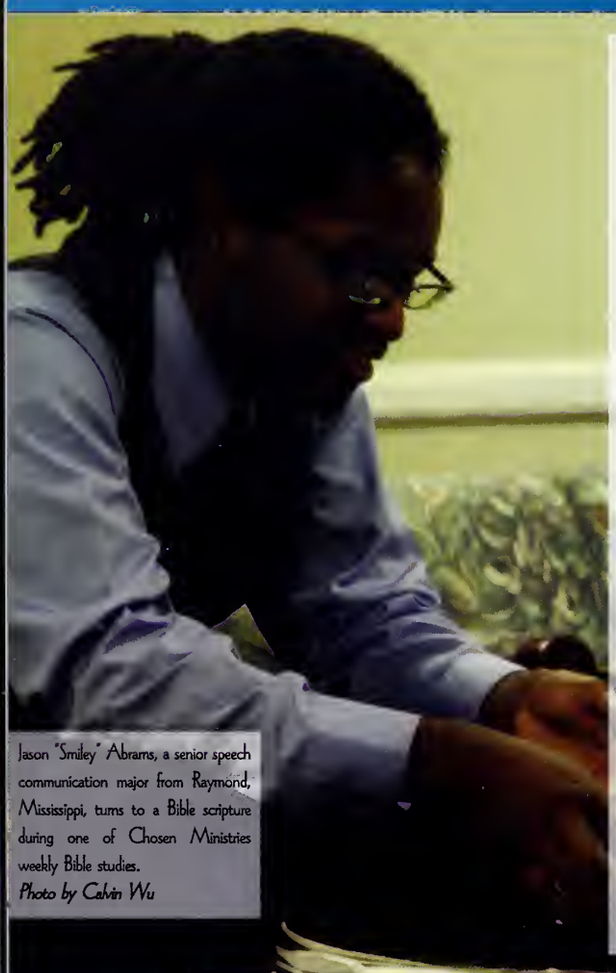
The BSU is majorly involved in international missions, including missions such as this one to China. International mission trips provide both cultural and religious experiences to students.
Photo Submitted by the BSU



The BSU is one of the largest student groups and acts not only as a place of worship and religious reflection, but also gives students sanctuary from the burdens of student life.
Photo Submitted by the BSU

LIGHTING THE WAY

chosen ministries



Jason "Smiley" Abrams, a senior speech communication major from Raymond, Mississippi, turns to a Bible scripture during one of Chosen Ministries weekly Bible studies.
Photo by Calvin Wu

The Chosen Ministries of Intervarsity Christian Fellowship was created when two organizations realized that they had the same goal: to allow people to share their faith, while fostering respect for different views of others. The group offers international, cross-cultural, and cross-denominational Bible studies to anyone who wishes to join.

"We try to have our meetings in accessible places so that anybody may stop by and join," said Jason "Smiley" Abrams, a senior speech communication major from Raymond, Mississippi. Bible studies are held at different places such as the R.C.'s Lounge or dormitory lobbies like the Hickman Hall Lounge. "One of our main goals is to train students to be able to lead their own Bible study," said Abrams.

Every semester a different topic is chosen for each Bible study group. Topics vary from books of the Old Testament, to Gospels, to specific Bible verses. "We like to keep open discussions that go beyond the topic," said Mark Young, a film major from Queretaro, Mexico. "Attendants may ask faith questions or ask for advice when they go through hard times."

Student leaders must pick a topic for discussion and lead the conversation, while allowing full participation from all who attend. "I joined because I couldn't find this type of Bible study anywhere else," said Young. "Most groups have members listen to a speaker without joining in the discussion." The organization believes that everyone has something to contribute to the spiritual growth of the group.

The organization also hosts special events during the semester such as "Jesus Jam" and talent shows. During these events, students and faculty enjoy the singing, dancing, and poetry from different members.

The Chosen Ministries of Intervarsity Christian Fellowship offers a great opportunity to meet people through many events and Bible studies. There is a topic for everyone to enjoy, whether it be the Book of Joshua, or Romans 12:1, "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service."

Story by Jennifer Vital



Chosen Ministries gives students a way to become spiritually involved on campus and transcend the typical denominational boundaries.
Photo by Calvin Wu

A Community of Service

habitat for humanity

For student volunteers with the Southern Miss chapter of Habitat for Humanity, 2008 has been a year defined by personal and community growth.

Brittney Taylor, a senior marketing major from Jackson, Mississippi, believes that volunteering with the organization has given her many positive opportunities to experience growth. "Habitat has helped me grow personally by giving me the opportunity to take charge and participate. It has shown me that I can make a visible difference in the community."

Indeed, Taylor enjoys the fact that Habitat volunteers can see the contribution that they make. "We get to see the progress of our work every time we go to the work site," she said. "I can say I helped put shingles on that roof, I helped install sheetrock for that house, or I helped paint that wall. The list goes on."

Other student volunteers agree. Melissa Panks, a junior elementary education major from Slidell, Louisiana, serves as secretary of the chapter. "Volunteering with Habitat offers a chance to make a difference in people's lives. I love being able to see the progress in the work I'm doing with the other volunteers as more and more houses are being finished."

To Panks, connecting with the community is an important aspect of Habitat. "Many times when we go out to work on these houses, we get to work side by side with the people we are helping. Sometimes the kids will help us too. It's great to meet the people whose lives we are changing."

The student president of the Habitat for Humanity, Rasheeda Crawford, has a similar opinion on what Habitat means to volunteers and to the community. Crawford, a native of Starkville, Mississippi, is a senior mathematics major with a minor in electronics engineering technology.

"I think what people enjoy most about volunteering with Habitat is the atmosphere we have when we're building: the laughter, the learning, the dedication, and the appreciation," said Crawford.

"My favorite project this year would have to be the 'Women's Build,'" Panks said. "The house was the largest home made in the area for a single mother."

Crawford agreed. "A five bedroom home for a single mom with five children was built primarily by female volunteers. It was a really special project," she said.

"Seeing the house go from a concrete slab to a home built by women was amazing," said Taylor, who recruited her mother into the build for a weekend.

"It gave us gals a real chance to get our hands dirty," Panks said.

For students interested in volunteering with Habitat for Humanity, the requirements aren't high. "Students just need to have an open heart with the willingness to help others and the desire to have fun. Everything else, you learn when you're out at the build site."

Story by Jeffrey Guillot



Habitat for Humanity is a national organization that spends countless hours of community service providing homes for the homeless and less fourtunate.
Photo by Chris Mills

The Voice of Tomorrow

student broadcasters association

Everyone participates in some form of broadcasting. Whether watching television, listening to the radio, or going to the movies, we all interact with the media. But some wonder just how the movie producers are able to get a shot from a camera onto the big screen. Those students can join the Student Broadcasters' Association or SBA.

"The SBA is a group of individuals working together to learn about the broadcasting industry, which includes radio, television, film, public relations, and much more," said Kevin Wheeler, a senior broadcast journalism major from Birmingham, Alabama.

The organization works to enhance the development of student leadership within the School of Mass Communication and Journalism. The organization holds meetings, promotes service to the community, and is open to all students who have that itch to find out more about the mass communication industry. The Students Broadcasters' Association assists students majoring in broadcast journalism, film, and production via guest speakers, internship opportunities, and job openings.

The goals of the SBA are to serve the members by providing quality information about the field, job openings and internships, and to develop student leaders within the School of Mass Communication and Journalism.

"The organization has grown tremendously," said Wheeler. "We are able to bring in key leaders and we've traveled to Jackson and Biloxi to visit WLBT (Jackson) and WLOX (Biloxi). SBA also contributes to the new Southern Miss Magazine that airs each week. We are very instrumental in promoting the importance of journalists."

Wheeler describes the SBA as a professional unit that tries to be a somewhat informal, yet close knit group. "We don't want to be like every other organization," Wheeler said, "we want our membership dues to take our members very far so they can feel they have learned something and they can go out into the field having a sense of how things work."

Story by Tamora McConnell



The FBA offers students of any major experiences in the broadcasting field that directly translate to skills in a variety of industries and fields of study.
Photo by Calvin Wu

Breaking Boundaries

future black law students of america

The greatest ideal to which a nation may strive is to have a population knowledgeable of and active with its laws. To that end, the Future Black Law Students Association (FBLSA) provides a resource for students to become more involved with law before entering post-graduate studies in law school.

The Future Black Law Students Association provides information, mentorship, networking opportunities, and pre-law advice to aspiring black lawyers at Southern Miss. FBLSA was formed with the goal of populating America's schools with a diverse and prepared group of individuals. This is a proud organization dedicated to educating students interested in law. The vision of FBLSA is to prepare students who are serious about pursing legal careers.

"I think that FBLSA is a rewarding organization for students that want to become future lawyers. It helps them get prepared with practice LSATs and trips to pre-law conferences," said Sharmel Travis, a political science major from Canton, Mississippi. The association provides graduate and undergraduate students with a variety of opportunities to explore their interest in the field of law.

Students that join FBLSA will learn in return how to have an impact on the legal profession and humanity. "FBLSA provides resources and networking opportunities that help us pursue a career in the legal profession," said Keith Lampkin, the president of the organization and a political science major from Bentonia, Mississippi. "Our meetings are a weekly reminder of our aspirations beyond USM. FBLSA also provides a healthy competitive environment of individuals with major, similar goals for the future."

In a nation where familiarity and competence with legal proceedings is a valuable and necessary talent, the Future Black Law Students Association aims to provide its members with the best possible opportunity to succeed in the legal arena.

Story by Marchandria Thomas and Elliott Freeman



FBLSA allows students of any race to acquire vital information on law school applications and other pertinent information for future legal professionals.
Photo by Christopher Bostick

College Democrats



College Democrats is an organization that allows students to explore party politics and discuss the political ebb and flow of the nation.
Photo by Cathy Hayes

Fashion Merchandising



The Fashion Merchandising Organization acts as an outlet for students interested in the fashion merchandising industry to become involved in hands-on projects and gain important educational experiences.
Photo by Brettany Payne

C.O.G.I.C Fellowship



Church of God in Christ Fellowship is another way for students to get involved in a faith based organization geared to their specific age group.
Photo by Brettany Payne

Eta Sigma Gamma



Eta Sigma Gamma is an honors society for students in Community Health. They are an active part of campus, planning activities focused on health awareness.
Photo by Chris Mills

Campus Civitan Club



Campus Civitan Club is an organization based on providing service opportunities for members that allow them to get involved on campus and in the surrounding community.
Photo by Brettany Payne

N.A.F.D.A.



National Association of Future Doctors of Audiology is a group within the Student Speech and Hearing Association that allows students interested in audiology to gather and explore current research, job opportunities and many other topics of interest. *Photo Submitted by NAFDA. Background Photo by Jaime McKercher*

The Life in Student Life

university activities council

Life is more than work and school; having social events is extremely important in college. To that end, Southern Miss has the University Activities Council (UAC).

"Keeping students involved and helping others become active is some of the prime goals of University Activities Council, as well as providing free entertainment to all students," said Kiet Le, a senior entertainment industry management from Waveland, Mississippi. This council is made up of students who help unify the university by hosting activities that are free to all students.

The council hosts events such as Crawfish Festival, the annual Halloween Carnival, Fright Fest, movie nights, game nights, featured bands and karaoke at the Powerhouse, Eagles After Hours, Southern Miss Idol, and of course, Friday Night at the Fountain.

"We, as a council, try to bring a variety of activities to the campus to help every student feel comfortable while promoting pride in our great university," said Karin Smith, a junior and therapeutic recreation major from Ocean Springs, Mississippi.

This year the UAC saw great growth within their organization. As a group they achieved their major goals: attendance has increased and the UAC is completely student run. The UAC provides its members with the chance to take charge at events and to become part of their executive staff.

"I see UAC used as a stepping stone into many organizations due to the fact that the members are so diverse with their involvement. You can learn about other organizations. I've gained the experience to plan, organize, and execute events," said Smith.

The group as a whole continues to reach greater heights every year, offering new and exciting events and activities to entertain the population of Southern Miss.

Story by Brettany Payne
Background Photo by Calvin Wi



The University Activities Council is a large student organization that ensures student life is filled with entertainment and campus-based activities as well as academic studies.
Photo by Eric Huckabee

"I've gained the experience to plan, organize, and execute events."

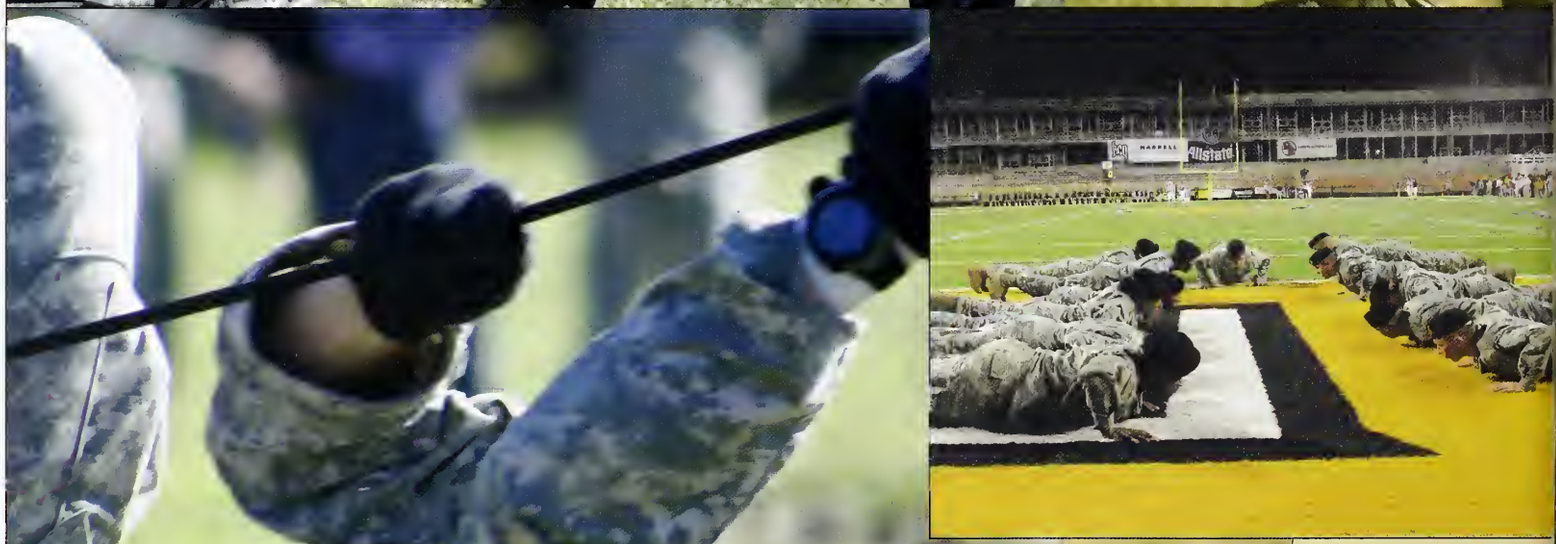


UAC plays an integral part in campus events such as the Halloween Carnival hosted in the student union every year. During this event children from the community are invited to participate in the festivities.
Photo by Cathy Hayes



UAC members have the opprotunity to book major bands for Friday Night at the Fountain. The Benjy Davis Project came to Southern Miss in the Fall.
Photo by Christopher Bostick





The Army ROTC works to provid students with a means of paying fo college while honing leadership skill pivotal to success after graduation.

All Photos Submitted by Arm ROTC

Leaders Among US

army rotc





Strength, charisma, and intelligence are all adjectives that can be used to describe what a typical leader is made of; however, there are few places other than in the Army ROTC that students can be instilled with all of these values while being trained explicitly for leadership endeavors.

According to Linwood Bubar, a senior history major from Hattiesburg, Mississippi, the program is a breeding ground for character building that also gives students an alternative means of paying for college.

"Army ROTC paid for my education and really helped me remain organized throughout my years at the university," said Bubar. "We start at six in the morning; there aren't many places that are open at that hour, and I can't think of a single other place that teaches the same leadership skills."

In addition to carrying out the traditional physical training and service duties of ROTC members, some members may opt to be part of the Ranger Challenge Program, a nine person team consisting of at least one female, which increases member's physical exercise in preparation for yearly competitions of basic soldier tasks against ROTC programs at surrounding schools.

Southern Miss has placed in the top five at this competition for two consecutive years against opponents such as the University of South Alabama, Tulane, Mississippi State, Ole Miss and Louisiana State University to name a few.

"Being a part of the Ranger Challenge Program has given me a leader's attitude, has made me train harder, and in the end will make me a little tougher," said Bubar.

According to Josh Jackson, a senior business administration major from Natchez, Mississippi, "The Army has a lot of opportunities, and it doesn't care about race and religion. It is a very open field that instills drive and initiative and is a very respected occupation."

Story by Chris Mills

THE GRADUATE ADVOCATE

graduate student advisory council

The Graduate Student Advisory Council (GSAC) is a group comprised of representatives from every department and college at the university. Each representative is a graduate student nominated by the head of their department, and acts as an intermediary between the graduate student population and the Graduate Studies Office.

"We are advocates for graduate students," said council president Kerri Quinn, the representative for the English department. "First and foremost, we represent graduate student interests and concerns, such as healthcare, childcare, housing, financial support and educational policy. We also take part in the campus decision-making process that effects the graduate student population."

"The Graduate Student Advisory Council is the most representative graduate student organization because all departments and schools have a member.," said Dr Susan Siltanen, University Director of Graduate Studies. Communication is essential to the successful functioning of all organizations. The GSAC is important to the university because it is a critical means of communication between graduate students and the Graduate Studies Office. The GSAC is a vehicle for two-way communication with graduate students in all departments and schools."

"The members are responsible for communicating ideas and concerns of their colleagues to the Council and the University Director of Graduate Studies," Dr. Siltanen said. "They also are responsible for communicating ideas and concerns from the University Director and the GSAC to their colleagues."

The Advisory Council meets twice a month and gives the graduate representatives a chance to voice concerns being expressed by the graduate student population, seeking all the while to give the graduate student population a unified voice on campus.

Story by Bradley Warshauer



David Nelson, a speech communications major representing the College of Arts and Letters, addresses his concerns on financial aid for graduate students.
Photo by Cathy Hayes



Dr. Susan Siltanen discusses policy with the other members of the advisory board. Discussions such as these lead to an increased level of productivity and quality in graduate student affairs.
Photo by Cathy Hayes



The members of the Graduate Student Advisory Board pay great attention to the needs of graduate students. Here, the members take notes on new policies and their implementation.
Photo by Cathy Hayes

Listen Up & Speak Out

student speech and hearing association

Every instant of every day, we communicate: we speak, we listen. For the members of the Student Speech and Hearing Association (SSHA), this is more than a simple fact of life: it is a field to be studied and appreciated.

The SSHA is a pre-professional organization that caters to the needs of speech-language pathology and audiology students on both the undergraduate and graduate level. Members are eligible to attend the organization's annual state convention free of charge, allowing them to expand their network of contacts in their field of study both here at Southern Miss and throughout the entire state.

Beyond networking, the SSHA also sponsors several events throughout the year both to increase awareness about their organization and to give back to their community. Yearly events held for the DuBard School for Language Disorders and the Children's Center include both a Fall Festival and an Easter Egg Hunt. The organization also sponsors charity drives during the holidays.

With more than 90 members, the SSHA has seen its membership increase at a steady rate this year. "We are basically spreading the word by mouth," said Jessica Conner, a senior speech-language pathology major from Quitman, Mississippi. "We have had a great turnout so far this year, and our membership has really grown."

"I hope that it continues to grow and influence the community in the years to come," said Lauren Hughes, a senior speech pathology major from Meridian, Mississippi and SSHA President. "I've met new people and been involved in some great things. Membership to this organization shows a student's interest and community service within the field he or she will work in someday."

Mindful of their futures and rooted in the present, the Student Speech and Hearing Association works to serve both their field of study and their community.

Story by Elliott Freeman



The Student Speech and Hearing Association is a professional organization that prepares students for a multitude of jobs focusing on the needs of the hearing impaired.
Photo Submitted by Student Speech and Hearing Association

Budding Healthcare Professionals

college of health ambassadors

The Student Ambassadors for the College of Health serve other students by connecting them to the many resources that the college and university offer. The members of this organization begin by meeting prospective students at recruitment fairs.

"One of our main focuses is to help students better understand what they are getting themselves into," said Amy Ealy, a social work major from Forest, Mississippi and president of the organization. "It can sometimes be hard to find needed information, since the college is so broad."

The College of Health at The University of Southern Mississippi consists of seven schools and departments that comprise the full spectrum of modern health care areas. The academic departments include Community Health Sciences, Medical Technology, Nutrition and Food Systems, and Speech and Hearing Sciences. The schools are Human Performance and Recreation, Nursing, and Social Work.

Besides different schools, the college offers connections to different Student Resource Centers such as the Dubard School for Language Disorders and the Center for Sustainable Health Education Center (AHEC).

The Student Ambassadors continually carry out the mission of the College of Health at Southern Miss: to create, apply and transmit expert knowledge, within and across the domains of its constituent disciplines, for the well-being of all. The college focuses on forming students in order to advance health through excellence in teaching, research, and service.

Service is viewed by the continual involvement of the ambassadors. They host health fairs and student involvement fairs, which give other students networking resources to help them in the future. Volunteering is also a big part of this organization. Events include collecting donations for underprivileged families during the Christmas and Thanksgiving seasons.

"I love being a part of giving," said Ealy. "As a social work major, it makes my profession seem real while still being in school."

Story by Jennifer Vital



The CoH Ambassadors act as an outlet for students in the College of Health to become involved on campus and promote their college and its affiliations.
Photo by Calvin Wu

Good for your Health

alpha epsilon delta

Alpha Epsilon Delta (AED) is the national health pre-professional honor society dedicated to recognizing and encouraging excellence in pre-professional health scholarship. AED is not only affiliated with the American Association for the Advancement of Science, but is also a member of the Association of College Honor Societies.

The organization welcomes any student engaged in the pursuit of a professional healthcare career, such as medicine, dentistry, optometry, veterinary medicine, pharmacy, dental hygiene, physical therapy, occupational therapy, cyto-technology and health information management.

Southern Miss opened its chapter on October 23, 1948, serving both as an honor society and service organization. It helps students prepare for careers in medical fields by assisting with course selection, schedule planning, and the application process.

"This year we are trying to increase community service to get our members even more involved with the community," said LaTandra Cowan, AED faculty advisor.

The organization also promotes communication among pre-professional students, faculty and professionals. AED brings professionals and recruiters from a variety of professional schools. "We want the students to have a broader outlook and perspective on all the opportunities available for them on a national level," said Cowan.

Every year, Alpha Epsilon Delta hosts speakers from Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana. This year they had the privilege of hosting professional speakers from Tennessee and Kansas as well. AED keeps its members informed of events, scholarships and national internships and externships via e-mail.

AED continues to offer opportunities for intellectual and professional development while providing a forum for students with common interests and extending a service to the university community.

Story by Jennifer Vital



Alpha Epsilon Delta is an honors society for studetnts wishing to attend professional school in health-related fields. This includes students wishing to attend medical, dentistry, physical therapy, and pharmacy school among other areas of interest.

Photo by Calvin Wu

Exceptional Achievement

omicron delta kappa

Southern Miss is home to dozens of honor societies, each dedicated to the pursuit of excellence, each notable for its own triumphs. To truly standout among such notable peers is the ideal of any organization, a goal which Omicron Delta Kappa has striven to maintain since its local chapter's inception in 1954.

Omicron Delta Kappa is dedicated to identifying, encouraging, and honoring exemplary leaders in collegiate life. This process begins early, as each spring the organization is responsible for recognizing the university's newest group of Outstanding Freshmen. Full-membership to the organization is offered to only a small percentage of qualified juniors and seniors every year; roughly thirty are initiated annually at Southern Miss. All potential members must be shown to excel in the most essential areas of the collegiate experience, from community service to athletics to creative arts.

This year, Southern Miss' chapter of Omicron Delta Kappa has focused its efforts on helping to establish a new student organization dedicated to human rights and civil liberties. In addition to their work with the fledgling group, Omicron Delta Kappa members also tutor local students who are learning English as a second language, and organize aid for local homeless people.

"A lot of our members are really entrenched in everything that's happening on campus," said Whit Meeks, a foreign languages and literature major from Pensecola, Florida and the organization's president. "It puts you in touch and helps you collaborate with others who are as involved as you are. That's the real strength of ODK."

Story by Elliott Freeman



Omicron Delta Kappa is a honor society that focuses on leadership and campus involvement. Members in this organization are the epitomy of student leadership.
Photo by Calvin Wu



AASO participates in many campus activities such as blood-drives and a host of other service-based events.
Photo Submitted by LeRoy Stamps

"We strive to **GROW**, as an organization for the **CONCERNS** of African-American students."



In the Fall semester, AASO put together a dance team to demonstrate black culture during "A Night at the Apollo."
Photo Submitted by LeRoy Stamps



AASO strives to provide information on African-American culture to students on campus through distributing printed materials.
Photo Submitted by LeRoy Stamps

Multiplying Minorities

afro-american student association

In 1970, a handful of students had the dream of starting an organization by and for African American students at the University of Southern Mississippi. More than thirty-eight years later, their dream is still going strong. The Afro-American Student Organization (AASO) is a university-chartered association designed to promote better race relations on campus.

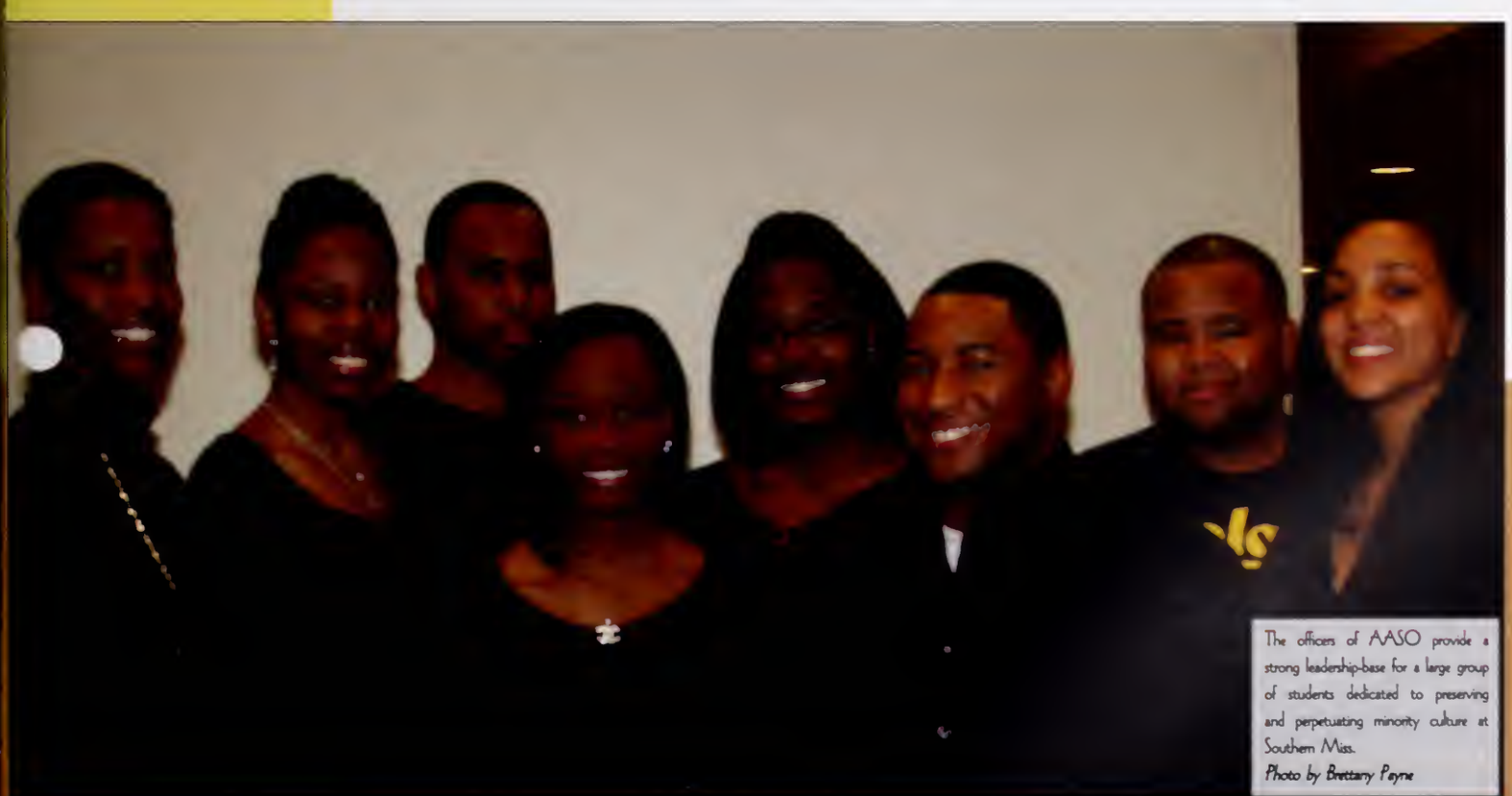
"As the oldest minority organization at the University of Southern Mississippi, AASO is the parent group of all other African American organizations. We strive to grow, culturally and socially, as an organization for the concerns of African American students and in the surrounding community," said Alesia Haynes, a junior speech pathology and audiology major from Bay St. Louis, Mississippi and the organization's activities chair.

AASO hosts many events throughout the year including "Showtime at the Apollo" in the fall and a Martin Luther King, Jr. Vigil in the spring. AASO also hosts and sponsors the annual Black Student Achievement Awards and participates in Habitat for Humanity and the Kennard Washington Tribute. Beyond their public service, AASO also holds social functions and academic programs that provide students with scholastic information.

The members of AASO concentrate on advocating the advancement of leadership and improving race relations of the university. "Some of my favorite things about AASO are the programs we hold as well as the relationships the members have with one another," said Key'Andrea Davis, a junior public relations major from Vicksburg, Mississippi. AASO is important to the Southern Miss student body not only because it represents the minority, but because the organization makes the campus more aware of issues that are important to college students, no matter their race.

Amber Brown, sophomore pre-nursing major from Meridian, Mississippi said, "I am so happy to be working with strong, intelligent minorities like myself. As our membership increases, so will the profound impact we have on this campus, the surrounding community, and this growing population of minority students."

Story by Brettany Payne



The officers of AASO provide a strong leadership-base for a large group of students dedicated to preserving and perpetuating minority culture at Southern Miss.
Photo by Brettany Payne



The Student Dietic Association allows students interested in dietics and the health field to become involved on campus with a group that is geared toward prfessional development.
Photo by Christy Dyess

Nourishing the Eagle Spirit

student dietics association

There are a host of goals encompassed by the programming that student organizations sponsor. Perhaps the most noteworthy of these goals is the preparation of members for life after college. The Student Dietics Association (SDA) is an organization specifically focused on such preparation, in addition to providing a strong support network for current students.

"The Student Dietics Association makes it a priority to be actively involved on campus, within the community and to plan social events for members outside of the typical classroom environment," said Ashley Barrient, a senior nutrition and dietics major from Biloxi, Mississippi.

Barrient described the organization as a group dedicated to promoting nutritional awareness on campus while providing a social network for students pursuing health-related degrees. The programming that Barrient and the organization arrange annually to fulfill their goals culminates in a full month of activities in March, the National Nutrition Month. These activities include fruit and water sales, healthy bake sales, and canned food drives.

In addition to programming, the Student Dietics Association promotes the involvement of their members in nationally recognized organizations by giving students stipends to attend state and national conferences and workshops.

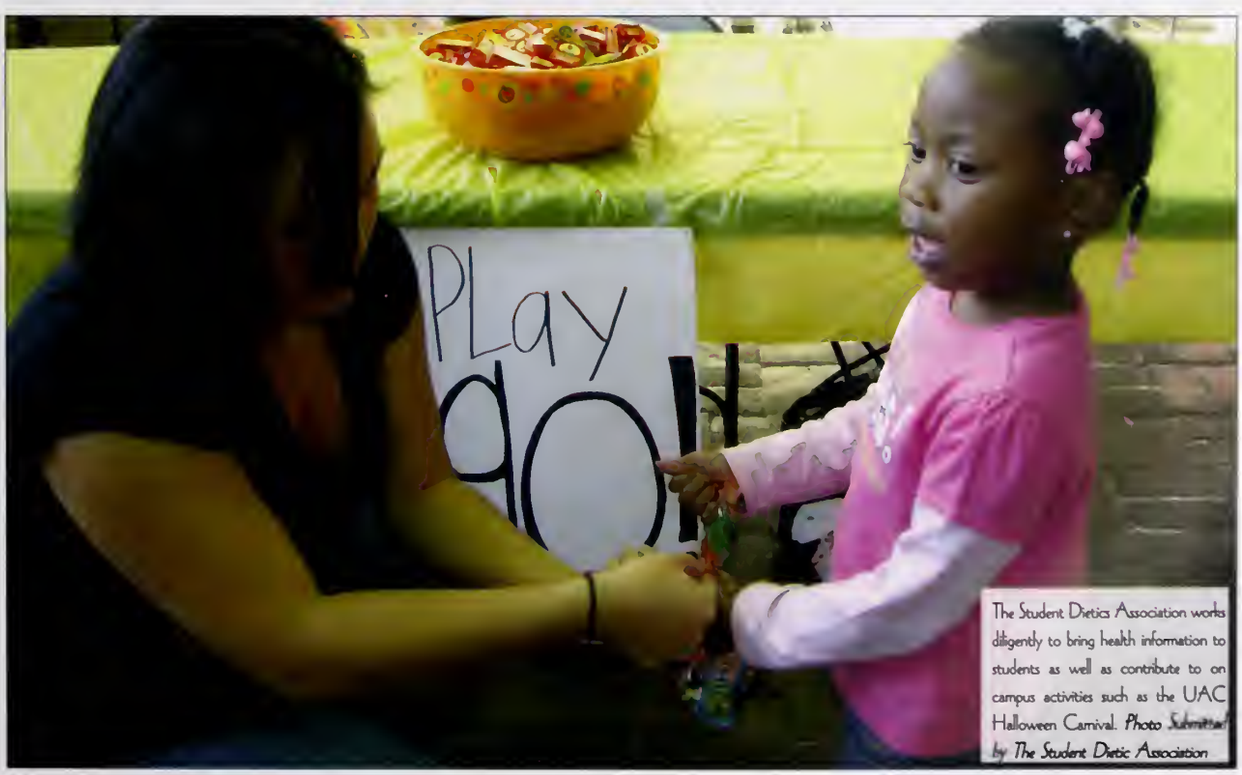
"Most students participate in the organization as a way to get involved in their academic major," said Barrient.

According to Jennie Thomas, a freshman nutrition and dietics major from Batesville, Mississippi, membership in SDA was one of the initial steps she took in becoming involved in her department.

"Coming to a university as a freshman and knowing very few people, it can be very difficult to feel like a part of the student body," said Thomas. "Joining clubs and organizations is one of the quickest and best ways to meet people and become involved."

Both Barrient and Thomas agree that there are many dimensions to the organization, and its importance to the student body is not confined by its goals to produce dietics professionals. Thomas added that this is a club that includes students from many areas that share an interest in health. SDA, although focused on professional development and campus and community involvement, is also another venue for students to congregate and enjoy the company of peers with similar interests.

Story by Chris Mills



The Student Dietics Association works diligently to bring health information to students as well as contribute to on campus activities such as the UAC Halloween Carnival. *Photo Submitted by The Student Dietic Association*

Leaving a Lasting Impact

sga cabinet

One of the main goals of the Student Governmcnt Association Executive Cabinet this year was to make the SGA a voice for thc students. This has propclled the organization into a positive light in the eyes of the University of Southern Mississippi.

"I don't think that many campuses around the state can boast the same type of successes that our SGA administration can. Evcrything wc have done this ycar has bccn to increase thc amount of student involvement, whether it was the Black and Gold tcam during Homecoming or our annual Eaglepalooza cvcnt," said Nichole Cyprian, a senior broadcast journalism major from Mobile, Alabama and the Executive Dircctor of Student Rclations.

The Executivc Cabinet works hand-in-hand with the Alumni Association and oversees most cvents hosted by SGA.

"As a member of the Executive Cabinet of the SGA, I have a lot of say-so in the decisions that are being made around campus. The cabinet is important to thc student body because it is the outlet that allows the needs and wants of students to be properly voiced: we are the bridge between the students and the administration," said LeRoy Stamps, a sophomore international business major from Vicksburg, Mississippi.

The SGA Executive Cabinet members get the chance to relate ideas and ambitions to make student ideas a reality.

Omari Pittman, a junior exercise science and advertisement major from Jackson, Mississippi said, "Some people feel as though SGA is a separate entity from the rest of the university. That's why I stay as approachable as possible, so all students can get their ideas heard so that we can make our university a little better than we found it."

Story by Brettany Payne



The SGA Executive Cabinet engages students from many different majors and departments in matters that directly affect students' activities and involvement on campus.
Photo by Calvin Wu

Representing the Student Body

sga senate

Legislation is the key role of the Senate at Southern Miss: they create and pass bills, while helping to run student life on campus with the other two branches of the Student Government Association (SGA). Members are chosen to take very active roles and therefore become even more involved with campus events.

All candidates must be full-time students and have a 2.5 cumulative GPA. Along with the application, the applicant must submit two position papers. The position papers may include qualifications, platforms, graphics, photos, or similar materials.

The senate is comprised of fifty-one capable students. Twenty-five representatives are apportioned among the colleges of the university according to the number of students enrolled in each college. Twenty-three are elected based on area of residence. There is one graduate student elected at large and one entering transfer student.

"I am one of two senators from Elam Arms," said from Beau Roberts, a sophomore building construction and technology major from Bioloxi, Mississippi. "I sit on the budgets and appointments committee, which is the committee that approves the SGA budget."

Besides reviewing and approving the budget for the SGA, the Senate approves funds for every other student organization on campus. Eighteen thousand dollars are budgeted for these organizations every year. After the student organization fills out a form, the Senate meets, reads the application, interviews the presidents, and then decide how much each organization gets.

The Senate may override the veto of the SGA president by a two-thirds vote. Also, they may enact legislation of any subject that they deem necessary. "The Senate works to serve the student body," said Ashley Cangelosi, a speech communications major from Mandeville, Louisiana. "It keeps standing traditions while creating new ones."

Story by Jennifer Vital



The SGA Senate is composed of many representatives from residence halls, colleges, transfer students and the campus at large who pass legislative bills that change the SGA constitution.
Photo by Samantha Nix

The Jury is In

sga judicial board

The Student Government Association is divided into three branches, each organized to meet the needs of the student body. Of all these branches, however, the Judicial Board may be the least understood by the population of Southern Miss.

"The full purpose of the student government association is to represent the opinions of the student body," says Ashley Cangelosi, a senior speech communications major from Mandeville, Louisianna.

The Judicial Board is the branch of the SGA that handles one of the most talked about subjects on campus: parking tickets. Parking is a touchy issue on any college campus, and no student wants to pay fines for parking in the only available spot.

"We're probably the craziest branch of the SGA. We deal with students on a day-to-day basis, and you really get to appreciate just how varied our student body is," said Whit Meeks, a senior foreign languages and literature major from Pensecola, Florida. Meeks is the current SGA Attorney General and head of the judicial board.

Appeals are held every Wednesday in the Thad Cochran Center, at three o'clock. The process begins with a written statement of the appeal that is reviewed by the individual members of the Board, but students may also appear to argue their case in person. If their appeal, is accepted, their parking fees can be waved. Despite this, many students do not know about the hearings. The Judicial Board also occasionally hears disciplinary cases within the university's jurisdiction, but they have not heard a single such case this year.

"You see some characters," said Kate Rudzki, a senior advertising major from Birmingham, Alabama. "Sorting through the legitimate claims and the fabricated ones is a real job."

Story by Hannah McInnis



The SGA Judicial Board acts as a special committee that hears and voices the concerns of the student body at Southern Miss, especially concerning parking issues.
Photo by Calvin Wu

The Saplings of SGA

sga freshman associates

Everything has a beginning, and for the Student Government Association, that beginning is a group called Freshman Associates. The Freshman Associates are responsible for helping all three other branches of the SGA in various capacities, and also serve as the most direct way for freshmen to become involved with student government at Southern Miss.

Given that all the members are freshmen themselves, it isn't surprising that one of their biggest tasks is getting other freshmen involved on campus. The associates work to increase communication both to and from the freshman population, and also encourage their peers to participate in the events organized by the SGA as a whole.

The organization also serves as a spirit committee for Southern Miss through "R.A.S.S.": Random Acts of School Spirit. The Freshman Associates decorate the campus for home games and other events, and produce a constant stream of posters to increase school spirit.

"We're basically the workhorse of the SGA," joked Nicholas Stiles, a freshman administration of justice major from Thurmont, Maryland. "We end up helping with just about anything on campus."

This year also marked the first time that the Freshman Associates traveled down to the Gulf Park Campus to engage in "R.A.S.S.ing."

"I was always really involved in high school and was scared that when I went to college it would be extremely difficult to get involved. Freshman Associates gave me the opportunity to do just that," said Kasey Mitchell, a freshman managing and marketing major from Picayune, Mississippi and the president of the Freshman Associates.

For those freshman looking to invest their time and efforts in their university, the Freshman Associates offer a unique and unforgettable introduction to college, with the potential to continue on throughout one's time at Southern Miss.

Story by Elliott Freeman



SGA Freshman Associates is a way for freshmen to become involved in SGA activities at Southern Miss. Early involvement in SGA leads to a more connected experience at Southern Miss. *Photo by Calvin Wu*

Home Away from Home

catholic student association

For the Catholic Student Association, this was another promising year of fellowship, service, and growth. Based at St. Thomas Aquinas Church on 4th Street, CSA seeks to promote the social and spiritual growth of their members through a mix of worship and outreach programs.

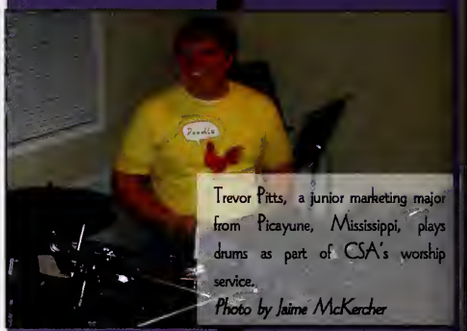
Mary Katherine Gwin, a junior tourism management major from Vicksburg, Mississippi, values CSA for the positive support it provides. "CSA is a comfortable environment where students can express their faith openly. It's a second family, a home away from home. It is a place where you can be yourself, and get involved with good people who will support you."

Other students share a similar sentiment. Trevor Pitts, a junior marketing major from Picayune, Mississippi, believes CSA's welcoming nature is crucial in defining the organization. "CSA is a good, solid community for students. It's very relaxed and judgment free. It accepts people how they are."

This year, CSA once again undertook a spring mission trip to Saltillo, Mexico, as one of their major service activities. A number of students from the local community gave up their spring break to participate.

Pitts considers service of this nature to be important in giving back, not just to the community, but to society as a whole. "Volunteer work, whether it happens in Mexico or right here in Hattiesburg, is a great way for students, regardless of denomination, to become active in helping others. CSA really does a good job of giving students opportunities like this."

Story by Jeffrey Guillot



Trevor Pitts, a junior marketing major from Picayune, Mississippi, plays drums as part of CSA's worship service.
Photo by Jaime McKercher



Leslie Gaddis plays Guitar Hero at a CSA gathering as part of the night's entertainment.
Photo by Jaime McKercher



CSA offers students the opportunity to become part of a large, family-like group that accentuates both a healthy spiritual and academic life.
Photo by Jaime McKercher

Practically Perfect

picture perfect models



This Picture Perfect Model struts her stuff at the fashion show this fall. PPM gives students the opprotunity to practice their modelling abilities in hopes of entering the fashion industry.
Photo by Briana Dekemel

Southern Miss is home to many organizations that talk the talk, but only one that walks the walk. Picture Perfect Models (PPM) was established in the fall of 2003 and has since grown to include over 60 active members.

"My favorite thing about Picture Perfect Models is the diversity of people involved. The energy we have as a group helps to make the fashion shows what they are," said Permelia Lee, a junior chemistry major from Canton, Mississippi.

PPM promotes self-esteem and confidence among students and builds character, leadership, and pride through community service and academic involvement. "My favorite thing about Picture Perfect Models is that it gives me a chance to show off my fresh gear," said Marvin Ward Jr., a junior marketing major from Richton, Mississippi.

This year, Picture Perfect Models started their first annual Angel Tree Adoption with the Salvation Army, which provides children with toys for Christmas. The groups also hosted a small fashion show at Hawkins Elementary School for the children there.

In addition to community service, the models provide entertainment to the student body through their fall and spring fashion shows. Picture Perfect Models practice twice a week, and the organization is open to all Southern Miss students.

Kira Kelly, PPM President and a senior biological science major from Canton, Mississippi, said "we are important to the student body because we provide students with the sense of confidence. We help them grow as individuals. After most models perform their first fashion show, their self-esteem is lifted."

Story by Brettany Payne



PPM offers students the ability to explore interests in the fashion industry and get trained in proper modeling techniques.
Photo by Calvin Wu

Preparing for Business

delta sigma pi

Delta Sigma Pi is a professional fraternity organized primarily to foster the study of business in universities. For more than 95 years, Delta Sigma Pi has encouraged, supported, and shaped the professional goals and personal aspirations of thousands of members nationwide. It is the foremost professional fraternity for men and women pursuing business careers.

The organization encourages scholarship, social activity and advancement through research and practice. Delta Sigma Pi members grow far beyond classroom theory through real-life managerial and leadership experience.

"This year we not only had company tours at Howard Industries and had various business leaders give talks, but we also got a chance to co-host the Career Fair here at Southern Miss," said Ollie Moses, a senior tourism management from Moss Point, Mississippi and president of Delta Sigma Pi.

Delta Sigma Pi promotes closer affiliation between the commercial world and students to further a higher standard of commercial ethics and culture. The network of Delta Sigma Pi members coast-to-coast provides business resources, professional contacts, educational opportunities and support to even the newest business graduate.

"We have sponsors such as CINTAS and the Frito-Lay Corporation," said Moses. "The importance of having this networking is obvious from the fact that alumni are currently working for these companies."

The organization embraces professional and personal development, as well as community involvement. The members participate in community service projects such as Habitat for Humanity, the open-university Blood Drive and the Boys and Girls Club. Believing that business has both a unique opportunity and a compelling duty to contribute to the larger community, Delta Sigma Pi is dedicated to making a difference.

The chapter requirements include a GPA of at least 2.3 on a 4.0 scale, a declared business major, and at least three remaining semesters at Southern Miss.

The members continue to demonstrate a commitment to progress, growth, and excellence through the years. When speaking of the organization's future, Wilson Lewis, a junior marketing major from Columbus, Mississippi said, "You have to look for someone who can replace you so that the fraternity can continue to grow."

Story by Jennifer Vital



Delta Sigma Pi is an organization that instills a sense of professionalism in its members, and prepares them to apply this professional ideology to their lives after college.

Photo by Eric Huckabee

Affiliating Affirmations

alpha kappa psi

Whenever you hear the words business-savvy, one group always comes to mind: Alpha Kappa Psi. The Tau Omega chapter of Alpha Kappa Psi was created in 2002 here at Southern Miss as a business fraternity focusing on preparing its members to compete for jobs in today's business world. Since then, it has gained high praise on campus, and has also attained a great reputation amongst the national chapters.

"Alpha Kappa Psi has helped me in so many ways: I've met numerous business people affiliated with the fraternity and we've all forged lifelong bonds within our chapter at Southern Miss. We also pride ourselves on spreading our fraternity's ideas throughout the campus and the community," said Larry Miller, a junior entertainment industry major from Gulfport, Mississippi.

Alpha Kappa Psi members are very active with Habitat for Humanity, and also volunteer at retirement homes and daycares within the community. In addition, they host numerous professional speaking events throughout the year.

"Every year Alpha Kappa Psi attends the national Alpha Kappa Psi Leadership and Success Convention which helps out the chapter by improving relationships with other members as well as providing networking tools to better the member's chances of success," said Casper Grant a senior management and marketing major from Canton, Mississippi.

Alpha Kappa Psi has grown as an organization solely through its dedicated and determined members. The fraternity is open to all students from all majors and backgrounds.

"We want people to realize that no matter what a student's major or career choice may be, they are welcome here. Alpha Kappa Psi believes that any field you enter into is considered a business," said Casper Grant.

Alpha Kappa Psi is dedicated to making the community richer and giving the student body opportunities to enrich their knowledge about the business world.

Story by Brettany Payne



Alpha Kappa Psi is an organization created for business students that allows them to become familiar with basic components of business and how these relate to everyday life.
Photo by Christopher Bostick

Residents Unite

residence hall association

For students living on campus, the state of the residence halls and what these facilities offer to daily life are important aspects of the college experience, and the Residence Hall Association (RHA) is the organization charged with quality assurance.

"The Residence Hall Association is a vital organization to students living on-campus," said Tearanny Street, a senior public relations major from Crowder, Mississippi. "We are the official voice of the students pertaining to any and all matters in the residence halls."

According to Street, the welcoming environment of the organization coupled with its mission to serve students living on campus draws members from a vast array of majors and walks of life. Through membership, students are given leadership skills focused on representation and delegation, two vital components of professionalism.

"Members of the Residence Hall Association are taught how to properly represent constituents, and their perspective on residence life is broadened substantially," said Owen Parker, a senior public relations major from Crowder, Mississippi.

Street added that the organization's rich history at the university adds to its uniqueness from other student organizations. The constitution of the RHA was drafted in 1976, and ever since it has acted to increase student involvement on campus and shape campus life for incoming students.

Parker identified the importance of RHA not only by its mission to aid students living on campus, but also by what the organization says about the intentions of the university and the department of Residence Life.

"The presence of RHA shows that Residence Life is open to feedback from students," said Parker. "RHA helps Southern Miss grow with every student concern it addresses."

Story by Chris Mills



RHA allows students the opportunity to make decisions dealing with on-campus housing and the programming and policies concerning Residence Life.
Photo by Calvin Wu

Southern Miss' Biggest Fans

goal tenders

Southern Miss has many different sports available for fans to enjoy and take part in. While some are more known than others, the Goal Tenders are helping to make sure that the basketball teams are one of those recognized sports. The Goal Tenders are the Golden Eagle's and Lady Eagle's spirit group, and they are out to make a name for both themselves and the teams that they support.

"Everyone knows that Southern Miss is a football school," said Chelsey Smith, president of the Goal Tenders. "We want to make it an all-sport community because we have some great players at our university."

The Goal Tenders work to get the crowds pumped up at the basketball games. Just recently, they have began working with Larry's Loonies to get the word out about the basketball program and increase crowd support at games. "This season introduced what we call our 'big brothers' in Larry's Loonies," said Smith.

This teamwork with Larry's Loonies has really got Shantee Ezell-Everett, vice president of the Goal Tenders, excited. "What I enjoy the most is when all of us get together with Larry's Loonies and pump up the crowd!"

The Goal Tenders are also very active in the community and really enjoy being so. "In addition to supporting the teams, we also engage in making a difference in the community by participating in community service," said Ezell-Everett. There are many different organizations that the Goal Tenders support through community service. "We do community service at the Boys & Girls Club, Habitat for Humanity, and participate in Relay for Life."

Supporting the Golden Eagles and the Lady Eagles, however, are the Goal Tenders main concern and something they take very seriously. "We are pulling together to get more people involved in the group to help support our men and women," said Robin Shaw, a senior nursing major.

"Over the last two seasons, students have started to notice what our teams are capable of and attendance at games has greatly increased," said Smith. A lot of this growth can be attributed to this devout bunch of students, the Goal Tenders.

Story by Alan Wheat



The Goal Tenders are a group of girls that support Southern Miss Basketball and strive to be a cheerleading force at both home and away venues.
Photo by Chris Mills

Planting The Seed

southern style

Every university in the nation has one: a group that accentuates the persona of the institution, a group that exemplifies the student body and its diversity, ability, and amazing potential for growth and discovery. At Southern Miss this group is called Southern Style.

Southern Style is a student-based organization that is steeped in the tradition of Southern Miss and is involved in events such as Golden Eagle Welcome Week which imparts this tradition to a new generation of Southern Miss students. Characterized by their gold jackets and their individually-based problem-solving abilities, Southern Style offers a lot to the university as well to the students that become involved in the organization.

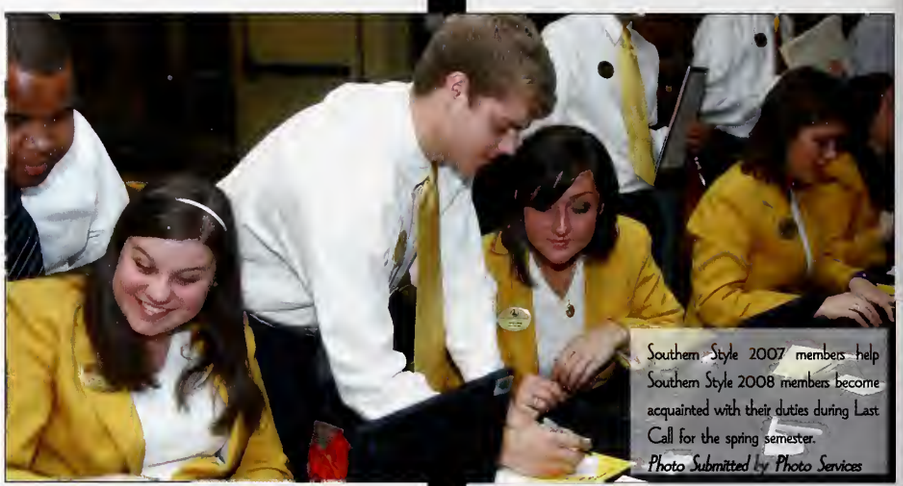
"I originally thought Southern Style would simply be a learning experience, or something that might assist me in my future career and life; however, it's turned into so much more." said Kami Mueller a junior political science major from Yorktown, Indiana. "It's turned into continued self-exploration and into a reminder that selflessness in serving others is a constant pursuit."

Denise Dickerson, a junior nursing major from Bay Springs, Mississippi, said that Southern Style allowed her to express herself in a way that she felt was both natural and rewarding.

"If anyone knows me, they know I'll talk to absolutely anyone," said Dickerson. "I loved interacting with the new students and just making them feel welcome and happy about their choice to come to Southern Miss."

Dickerson and Mueller agreed that the central thread tying the members of Southern Style together was a deep love for Southern Miss and a concern for the future of the university.

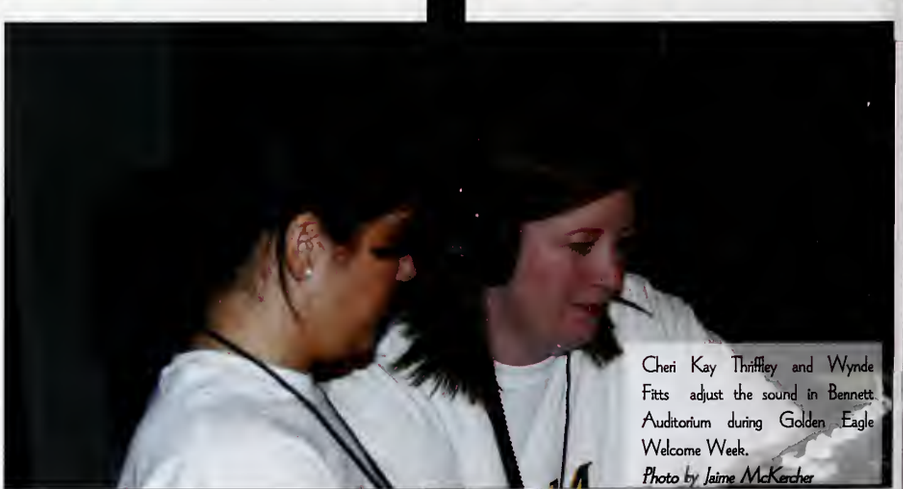
Story by Chris Mills



Southern Style 2007 members help Southern Style 2008 members become acquainted with their duties during Last Call for the spring semester.
Photo Submitted by Photo Services

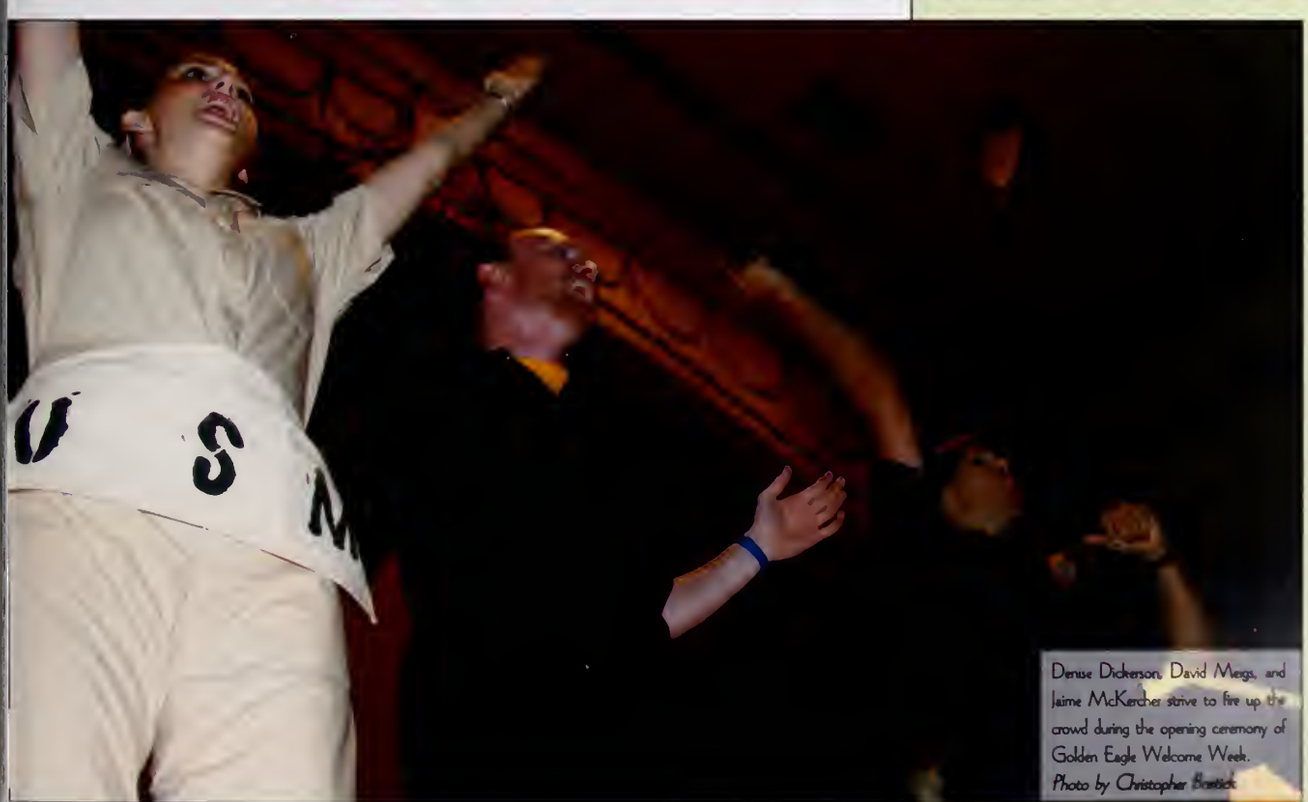


Southern Style 2007 poses for their formal picture outside of the Administratoin Building.
Photo Submitted by Photo Services



Cheri Kay Thriffley and Wynde Fitts adjust the sound in Bennett Auditorium during Golden Eagle Welcome Week.
Photo by Jaime McKercher

Southern Style 2007 includes Cody Clark, Brian Harris, Brena Ward, Marlee Price, Omari Pittman, Denise Dickerosn, Jenell Ward, Jaime McKercher, Deborah Quave, David Meigs, Kate Rudzki, Dustin Boone, Kami Mueller, Chelsey Smith, Jonathan Pegues, Dustin Renaud, Nicole Charlet, Maggie Pikul, Tara Gremillion, Gray Weinaker, Katie Anthony, Mark Carter, Brandi Farrar, and Jennifer Gunn.
Photo Submitted by Photo Services



Denise Dickerson, David Meigs, and Jaime McKercher strive to fire up the crowd during the opening ceremony of Golden Eagle Welcome Week.
Photo by Christopher Bostick

Making the Right Connections

eagle connection

Before any student chooses Southern Miss, they must learn what the university is about. Many high schools host college fairs with representatives from colleges giving out information about their schools and trying to recruit students. Here, those representatives are called Eagle Connection: the student-based recruitment team for Southern Miss.

While many students love this university, it takes more than just a love for the school. Students apply through the Admissions Office, and members are chosen based on their commitment to the university and their communication skills.

"Eagle Connection holds the future for Southern Miss," said Beth Guess, a senior speech communication major from Mendenhall, Mississippi. "It is our job to continually to promote the university and the things it has to offer positively and proudly by recruiting the best of the best."

The organization strives to move towards the future with confidence that Southern Miss is the best based on students, faculty, and the school's amazing accomplishments.

The organization has not only grown in numbers but also in quality. Dedicated members who are committed to Eagle Connection are able to promote the university positively. "We try to recruit those students who want to and ultimately will leave Southern Miss better than they found it," said Guess.

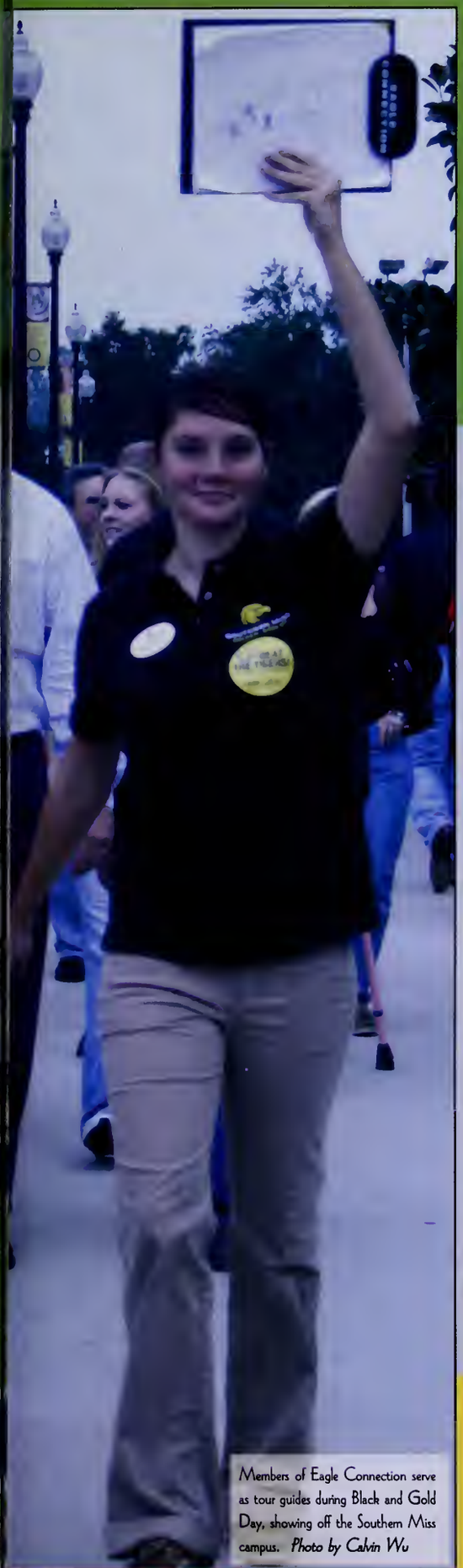
Prospective students are not the only ones who can grow "I have found confidence to stand up for what I believe in now because of how Eagle Connection has molded me," Guess said.

Eagle Connection is different from other organizations because it holds the key to the future of Southern Miss. The organization plans to continue to grow and recruit only the best to keep the tradition of Southern Miss excellence alive.

Story by Tamora McConnell



Eagle Connection is the student-based recruitment team for Southern Miss. They bring all that The University of Southern Miss has to offer to incoming students.
Photo Submitted by Photo Services

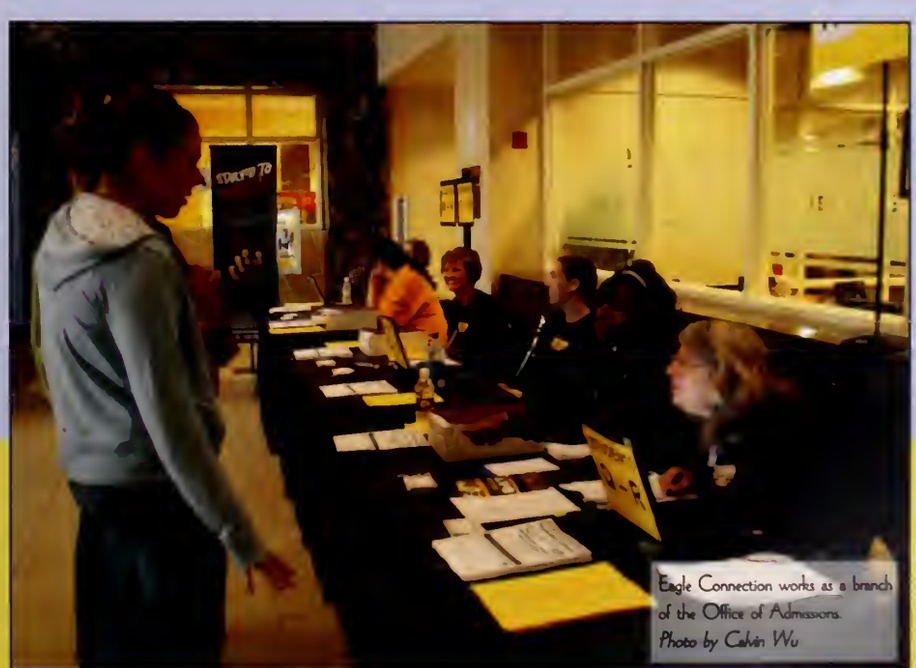


Members of Eagle Connection serve as tour guides during Black and Gold Day, showing off the Southern Miss campus. *Photo by Calvin Wu*

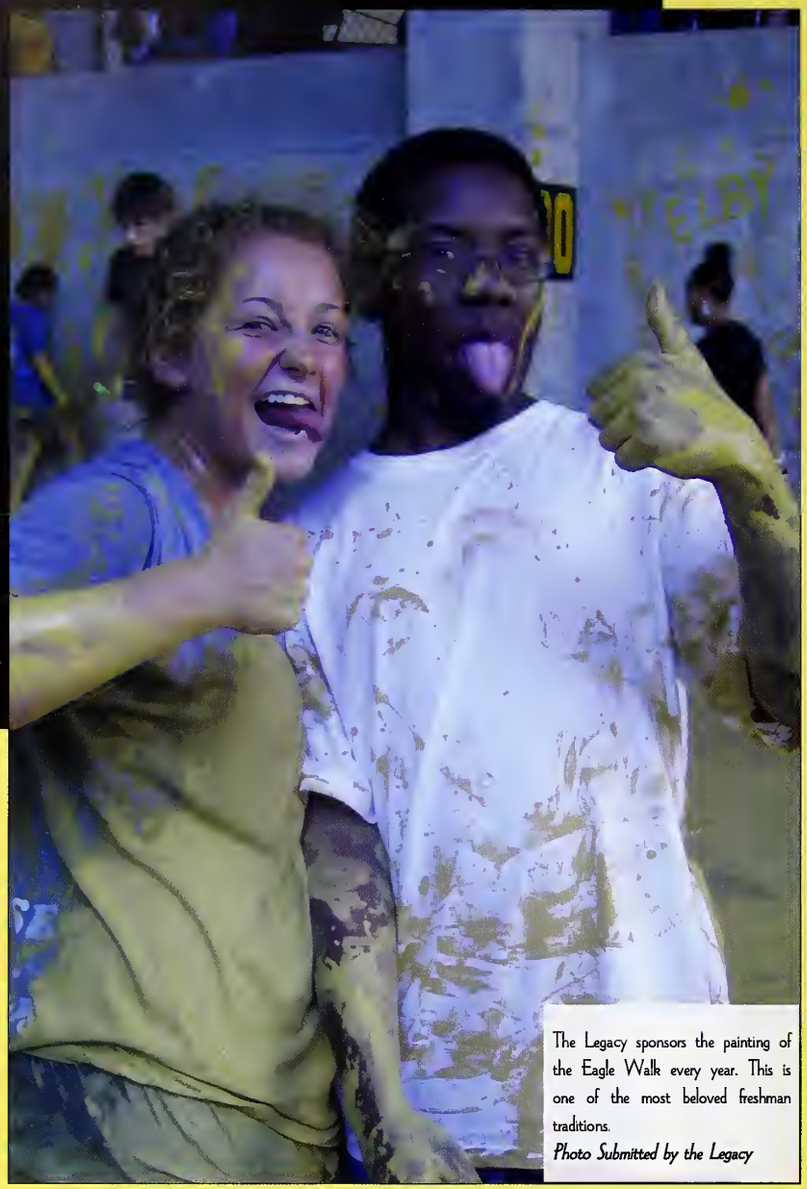


Brena Ward and Melissa Lang organize groups during Black and Gold Day. Eagle Connection also fosters relationships between its members. *Photo by Calvin Wu*

"Eagle connection holds the **FUTURE** for Southern Miss; it is our job to continually **PROMOTE** the university."



Eagle Connection works as a branch of the Office of Admissions. *Photo by Calvin Wu*



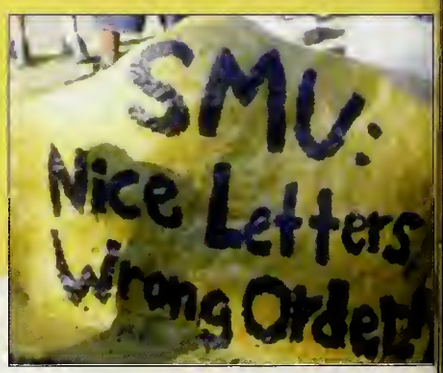
The Legacy sponsors the painting of the Eagle Walk every year. This is one of the most beloved freshman traditions.
Photo Submitted by the Legacy



Every year, the Legacy sponsors a t-shirt swap in which students can trade in other school's merchandise for Southern Miss apparel.
Photo by Christopher Bostick



Another tradition for The Legacy is to paint the Little Rock with phrases relating to the many events happening at the university, especially athletic match-ups.
Photos Submitted by the Legacy





Keeping Tradition Alive

the legacy

The Legacy is an organization that is not only a tradition, but also the embodiment of the traditions of Southern Miss. The Legacy's motto is "Tradition, Pride, Loyalty, and Excellence."

The Legacy reached an all time high in membership this year with almost three hundred members, a testament to how this generation of Southern Miss students feels about not only keeping traditions alive, but strengthening them.

"I'm definitely excited about it. It shows a lot of progress within the organization and it shows that students do have a true desire to uphold campus pride and tradition," said Brandy Strahan, a junior special education major from Lafayette, Louisiana, and Legacy President.

Tiffany Skrmetti, a junior exercise science with pre-physical therapy major from Biloxi, Mississippi and Legacy board member, shares the same sentiments.

"My whole family attended Southern Miss before me, so it is very special to know that I am participating in many of the same customs as they all did. The Legacy holds so much respect for traditions on campus."

Whether it is in front of the Hub at a tent or on game day, the Legacy is always there showing school spirit and having a good time themselves. "The Legacy helps students realize just how great it is to be a Southern Miss Student!" said Skrmetti. With an image like this, it is easy to see how they have reached such a high membership and commitment level.

The Legacy is a group that leaves a great impression on its members, as Luke Smitherman puts it, "In our existence, we have seen countless students catch the Southern Miss spirit, and become lifelong Golden Eagle fans."

Keeping traditions alive is the essence of what the Legacy is about. Whether a student joins the Legacy for the traditions themselves or for the friendships, its no doubt that they will help in carrying on the history of Southern Miss and the Legacy itself.

"Traditions are a very important part of any university and the legacy aims to instill the importance of the traditions that we have here at Southern Miss into each student that steps onto this campus," said Strahan. It is a job that over three hundred students take very seriously.

Story by Alan Wheat



The Legacy Board serves as the body of leadership for the large amount of students who are members in this tradition-driven student organization.
Photos Submitted by Photo Services

Lambda Sigma



Lambda Sigma honor society is an elite group of sophomores committed to leadership and scholarship
Photo by Christy Dyess

Psi Chi



Psi Chi psychology society provides psychology students the ability to become involved in their field of study with service opportunities as well as scholastic endeavors.
Photo by Eric Huckabee

Badminton Club



The Badminton Club serves as a medium for physical fitness for students that enjoy the sport and meeting people with similar interests.
Photo by Calvin Wu

Gamma Theta Upsilon



Gamma Theta Upsilon Geography Society provides many opportunities for geography students to become involved in their field of interest on campus as well as in the community.
Photo by Christopher Bostick

I.D.E.A.L. Women



I.D.E.A.L. Women strives to bring the important issues of female studetns to life, and does so through campus events such as relationship couseling and countless seminars.
Photo by Brettany Payne

Stage Monkeys



Stage Monkeys is a comdey group comprised of Southern Miss students who strive to bring entertainment and laughter to the forefront of the college experience.
Photo by Calvin Wu
Background Photo by Calvin Wu

Growing Through Remeberance

—national association for the advancement of colored people—

Addressing minority needs on a national level has been the goal of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) since its inception amidst the uprisings of the American Civil Rights era. This goal has been extended to college campuses through the creation of countless student-run chapters on campuses across the nation.

"The NAACP helps unite the African American community on campus and makes membership in this community a proud fact," said Antoine Powell, a senior computer engineering technology major from Jackson, Mississippi. "This organization also helps forge campus-wide connections."

The NAACP also provides students with opportunities for professional development, and like other national organizations, allows student members the opportunity to join at the national level after graduation.

"NAACP helps students grow professionally by putting them in leadership positions; whether you are on the executive board or a member of a committee, there is always a time when someone has to step up and be a leader and we give people those opportunities," said Chelsey Smith, a senior exercise science major from Jackson, Mississippi. "NAACP helps students grow personally by having that window to participate in on-campus activities and to become acquainted with other organizations on campus."

In addition to their primary goals, the NAACP acts to thoroughly integrate the student body in order to bring about awareness and address the issues that face a campus as diverse as Southern Miss. According to Powell, the NAACP strives to get members of all races involved.

"We do a lot of community service, and that is a great way for students to get involved," said Powell. "We help people come together and feel appreciated regardless of their affiliations; we work like a family."

One of the organization's most famous programs is an annual march on Kennard Washington to commemorate the legacy of Clyde Kennard at Southern Miss and the clearing of his record after protests by the NAACP. They also host many events geared toward promoting black history.

Although the group is not the largest on campus, this has allowed them to become very close. As they begin to enlarge, they seek to maintain a group dynamic.

"We are a very close-knit organization who makes sure that every idea and opinion is heard," said Smith. "We are a small group with plans to expand; however, listening to what everyone has to say will never change."

Story by Chris Mills



The NAACP is a national organization charged with the task of providing equal opportunities for minority groups in America.
Photo by Chris Mills

Leading with Honor

phi sigma pi

With all of the academic majors and courses of study offered at Southern Miss, there are countless honors societies that students can become part of. Many of these organizations differentiate themselves by exemplifying a trait less apparent in other organizations. Phi Sigma Pi is an honors society that, in addition to helping students grow academically, seeks to help them develop socially and eliminate the social isolation seen in many honors societies.

"Phi Sigma Pi incorporates fellowship into its foundation," said Vincent Price, senior English licensure major from Vicksburg, Mississippi. "We work to dismiss the silence seen in other organizations' meetings due to people not knowing each other; we care about students' individual personalities and their development as well as their academic studies."

Although Phi Sigma Pi is a smaller honors society, they still fulfill their roles as leaders through community service projects such as visiting children at local PACE Head Start Centers in addition to distributing materials outlining the importance of African-American history and culture during Black History Month in February.

Brittany Hall, a junior accounting major from Magnolia, Mississippi, defined the uniqueness of Phi Sigma Pi by its fraternal status and its three core values.

"Phi Sigma Pi involves three tenants that I believe higher education is all about: scholarship, leadership and fellowship," said Hall. "We not only encourage academic achievement, but we also enhance leadership skills and create lifelong friendships."

Hall added that the diversity of the Gamma Nu chapter of Phi Sigma Pi at Southern Miss was one of its strongest aspects; the members can brainstorm a multitude of answers to a given problem based on the wide array of majors the members study. This focus on diversity and a commitment to the development of each member allows Phi Sigma Pi to continue to be a force on campus and in the lives of each member.

"By becoming a member of this organization, students can surround themselves not only with students of like intellects, but also with students that can lend their intellect to help with a vast range of problems," said Price. "In Phi Sigma Pi students take on roles they never thought they would be able to handle, and develop friendships they never thought would exist."

Story by Chris Mills



Phi Sigma Pi is an honors society focused not only on academics, but the personal development of its members.
Photo by Chris Mills

DEFINING DIVERSITY

national pan-hellenic council

"Our organizations work together to foster cooperative actions between its members in dealing with matters of mutual concern," said Cresean Hughes, a senior forensics major from Grenada, Mississippi and president of the National Pan-Hellenic Council.

NPHC is made up of nine historically black greek organizations: Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc., and Iota Phi Theta Fraternity, Inc.

Members of the NPHC are able to grow by functioning with members of other Greek organizations. "Each individual organization is comprised of a wide variety of personalities, which makes the council very diverse," said Hughes.

All of the members of the NPHC participate in community service and host various programs throughout the school year to better inform students of the purpose of the organization, giving all students the opportunity to learn about the NPHC. The organization doesn't simply focus on itself, but also finds ways to help the student community.

While founded by African Americans, no one is discriminated against and anyone is allowed to apply for admission into any one of the nine member organizations. This provides the NPHC with a variety of individuals who all work together for one common goal.

Story by Tamora McConnell



Omega Psi Phi brothers attending the annual NPHC cookout. Omega Psi Phi is an integral member of NPHC and supports all of the organization's events. *Photo by Shambry Clark*



Kappa Alpha Psi, an influential member of NPHC poses on the steps of the Hub. This group is only one example of the student involvement made possible by the NPHC. *Photo by Brettany Payne*









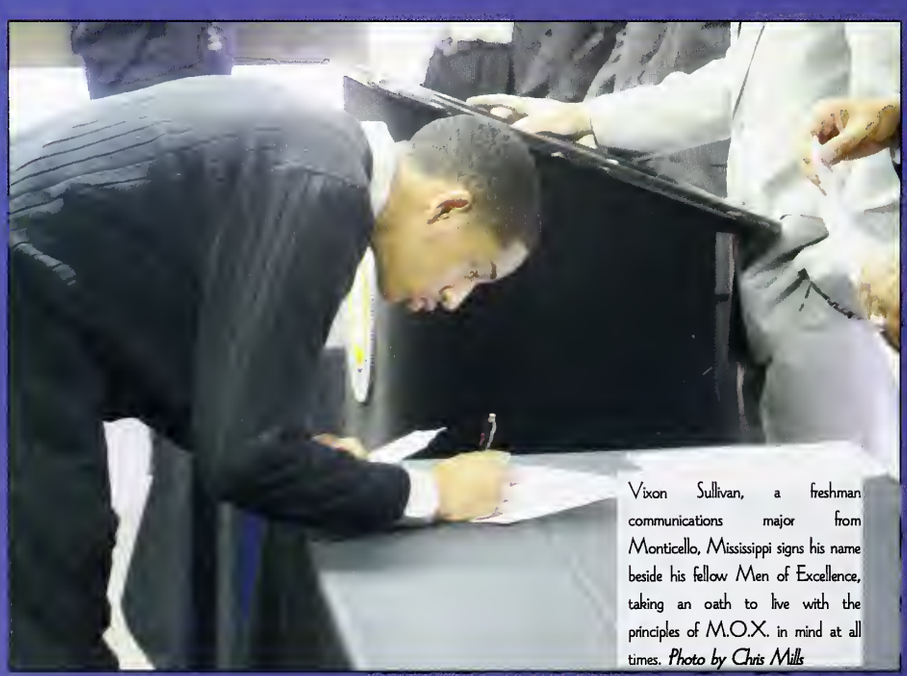
The members of the Divine Nine: Omega Psi Phi, Zeta Phi Beta, Kappa Alpha Psi, Iota Phi Theta, Phi Beta Sigma, Delta Sigma Theta, Sigma Gamma Rho, and Alpha Kappa Alpha.

All Photos by Brittany Payne



Joshua Quinn and Chad Leufroy help to work the concession stand during a football game at M.M. Roberts Stadium. Men of Excellence is an organization based on campus involvement and service. *Photo by Shamby Clark*

"WE SHALL CONTINUE TO MAKE THIS WORLD A BETTER PLACE



Vixon Sullivan, a freshman communications major from Monticello, Mississippi signs his name beside his fellow Men of Excellence, taking an oath to live with the principles of M.O.X. in mind at all times. *Photo by Chris Mills*



During their initiation ceremony, members of M. O.X. light candl a symbol of unity under the prin that guide the group. Among principles are honor, integrity service. *Photo by Chris Mills*

STANDARDS OF INTEGRITY

men of excellence

The Men of Excellence (MOX) organization is a group working to accomplish one goal: to improve and better the image of young men. In striving to achieve that goal, these individuals use leadership skills that will enhance not only themselves, but their peers and those they come in contact with.

The organization encourages self-respect and self-esteem by way of providing positive role models and networking with other professionals within the educational, industrial, professional, and recreational communities.

The Men of Excellence's purpose as an organization is to take young men who have potential and provide guidance to mold them into the best leaders, students, friends, and professionals that they can become. Chad Lefroy, a junior speech communication major from New Orleans, Louisiana, said, "This organization has helped me to develop my skills as a leader, a team player, and as a person in general. I now understand the worth of other individuals and truly appreciate the value of teamwork."

The process of joining and participating in MOX has many different facets. These young men are exposed to educational presentations of all sorts. Programs and seminars include topics such as time management, "Dress for Success," male heath, and investment.

Whether it is STI awareness or "Dress for Success" presentations, the organization provides activities to help these young men to become knowledgeable about the world around them, which in turn helps them to make informed decisions during their collegiate career and beyond. The lessons learned through this bonding experience will stay with them for a lifetime, and the friendships that they create are unparalleled.

Through various works around the community, the organization strives to make this world better. They take part in many different community service projects such as Osceola McCarthy Youth Development Center, Habitat for Humanity, and The Boys and Girls Club, among others.

"Through our dedication and resiliency, we shall continue to make this world a better place," said Jamal Porter, a freshman biology major from Holly Springs, Mississippi. "MOX was an opportunity to get involved with the community and campus. Also it helped me to become a better student and, most importantly, a better man."

Story by Marchandria Thomas



Men of Excellence offers membership to those students who exemplify manhood and offer themselves for the betterment of campus and the student body through community service.
Photo by Brettany Payne

THE SOUNDTRACK OF STUDENT LIFE

WUSM



In today's world of broadcast journalism, radio is seen as a dying medium. With many new types of media available, radio is often forgotten or discarded. Southern Miss, however, embraces this medium with WUSM, the on-campus radio station. WUSM is a diverse station that allows its disc jockeys the opportunity to display their originality and creativity while organizing play lists during their designated time slot.

"One of the greatest things about WUSM is the complete freedom that is given when we are determining the playlists for our shows," said Eric Nagurney, a junior mass communications and journalism major and WUSM disc jockey from Hattiesburg, Mississippi. "That freedom allows us to bring music to the listeners that they may not have heard before."

"WUSM really lets its listeners experience new music and enjoy artists and songs that are new to them," said Kevin Wheeler, a senior mass communications and journalism major and former WUSM disc jockey from Cambodia, Alabama.

"I really love the fact that I can get a different sound every time I tune in to the station," said Eddie Renz, a senior engineering technology major from Bay St. Louis, Mississippi.

WUSM offers a variety of shows with a variety of sounds. Student-run shows include Hub City Blues, Soundz of Jazz, Synchronicity, and others. Courtney Holcomb, a senior nursing major from Memphis, Tennessee, is a big fan of Synchronicity.

"Synchronicity is a great show because it is diverse in itself. You may get hip hop from one disc jockey, indie rock from the next, and maybe even some really, really heavy stuff."

The majority of WUSM's programming is student-hosted and programmed, allowing anyone interested to get involved in broadcasting. "It's a great stepping stone," says Wheeler. "The equipment might not be state of the art, but it really allows students to get a feel for how a station works and it allows them to work on their voice for radio."

Whether it is being enjoyed by students and the community as a source of entertainment or by students as a stepping-stone to a broadcasting career, WUSM is a staple of Southern Miss, for now and for the foreseeable future.

Story by Alan Wheat

Nicole Cyprian, a senior broadcast journalism major from Mobile, Alabama, plays her selections amidst requests from her fellow Southern Miss students listening to WUSM.
Photo by Christopher Bostick



Tim Finnigan, a sophomore broadcast journalism major from Satsuma, Alabama, monitors sound levels during his broadcast over WUSM. Students enjoy music from countless genres as the DJs play their own selections throughout the day.
Photo by Christopher Bostick

Academic Leaders

alpha lambda delta

The transition from high school to college is overwhelming for most freshmen. Balancing the load of schoolwork with a social life can be difficult, but those students who are able to stay focused and succeed academically are eligible for Alpha Lambda Delta Honor Society.

Alpha Lambda Delta was founded in 1924 at the University of Illinois to recognize academic excellence among freshmen. It has continued to celebrate academic excellence among first year students and has grown to over 250 chapters and has initiated over 700,000 students.

Students must have a 3.5 or higher grade point average on a 4.0 scale and be in the top 20th percentile of their class during their first semester. They also must be enrolled as a full-time student pursuing a bachelor's degree at an accredited institution of higher learning. Freshmen who are invited to join Alpha Lambda Delta receive national recognition as a member and become eligible to compete for many scholarships.

Christina Gladney, president of Alpha Lambda Delta, a sophomore community health science major from Memphis, Tennessee, said the organization helps the members to grow.

"Because Alpha Lambda Delta is a more laid-back honor society, granting students the option to be as active as they like, I feel that it allows students to identify their role in the Southern Miss community," said Gladney.

Gladney has also grown by being the leader of the organization. "I was left to figure out the duties and responsibilities myself with the help of the other active officers," she said. Gladney was able to determine how to handle her role, and has learned from her experience and hopes to take on other leadership positions.

Alpha Lambda Delta's mission is to encourage superior academic achievement, to promote intelligent living and a continued high standard of learning, and to assist students in recognizing and developing meaningful goals for their unique roles in society.

Story by Tamora McConnell



Alpha Lambda Delta is an honor society that focuses on leadership. Outstanding freshman are selected every year to join the ranks of ALD based on not only leadership, but also academic prowess.
Photo by Brettany Payne

The Voice of Southern Miss

the student printz

The freedom of the press is guaranteed to every American citizen, and this fundamental freedom has been a key aspect of this country's development from its humble beginnings in the 18th century. The modern American university, as a microcosm of the country, is no different.

According to Jake Meek, a junior religion major from Madison, Mississippi, the Printz, as the official student newspaper of Southern Miss, provides students with engaging and up-to-date commentary on issues that directly affect their daily lives.

In addition, Meek hopes that the publication's reader base continues to grow throughout the coming years, making the paper a deeper part of student life and giving students something to look forward to when new issues become available weekly on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

"The effort required with this job makes it one of the most rewarding posts on campus; this isn't a sedentary job," said Meek. "You won't be sitting at a desk or answering phones. You are actively engaged in the heartbeat of campus life."

Employment at the Printz offers students not only a steady source of income, but also provides students with abilities and experiences that apply to many areas of interest outside of journalism or photography.

"Whether you are a freelance photographer or reporter, or an editor, the student paper will challenge you to focus your communication skills, giving you that much of an edge when you find yourself on the job market," said Meek.

Erica Sherrill Owens, a senior photojournalism major from Hattiesburg, Mississippi, added that the duties of writing for the Printz help students academically as well as professionally.

According to Owens, the future of the publication hinges on the inclusion of multimedia facets such as the internet in order to reach a more broad base of readers.

"Working on the Printz helps students gain a sense of professionalism. You learn about deadlines, and enhance your writing skills," said Owens. "All of these qualities are very beneficial regardless of major or future career plan."

Story by Chris Mills



The editors of the *Student Printz* meet weekly to discuss the contents of the next issue. This innovative undergraduate team make it their mission to bring the news to Southern Miss students and the surrounding community.

Photo by Christopher Bostick

The Student Printz

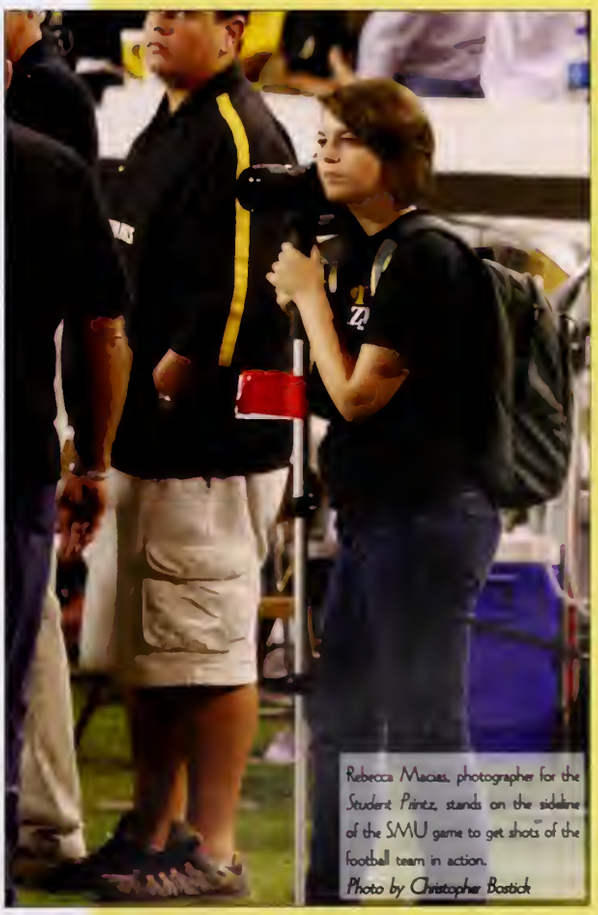
Serving Southern Miss since 1927



Maggie Williams, advisor of the *Student Printz*, gives her input to the students using her real world experiences as a former reporter.
Photo by Christopher Bostick



Jake Meek, a junior religion major from Madison, Mississippi and Opinions Editor, explains the upcoming articles for the Thursday issue.
Photo by Christopher Bostick



Rebecca Macias, photographer for the *Student Printz*, stands on the sideline of the SMU game to get shots of the football team in action.
Photo by Christopher Bostick

greeks



Photo by Eric Huckaber

Realm of Devotion

Loyalty Leading a Legacy... The Office of Greek Life

No matter what their letters or colors are, every member of the twenty-eight Greek organizations on campus strive to serve the community and campus. The diversity of Greek life helps all students identify with someone. The Office of Greek Life aims to make sure each student attains his or her ultimate college experience. Although Greek life represents only a small fraction of the student population, they make a massive impact on campus.

According to Eric Brundidge, president of the National Pan-hellenic Council, the purpose of Greek life is to connect to the community. "Being Greek helps individuals come out of their shells. They are introduced to others they would have never met otherwise." The interaction between different types of people helps them grow as individuals as they share their experiences with other. Although at times it is challenging, exposure to different personalities and worldviews helps people to mature.

"The purpose of Greek life is to act as a platform for students to make friends and get involved in other campus organizations," said Wren Ward, president of the College Panhellenic Council. Greek life helps students grow as individuals, allowing them to not only have an undergraduate experience, but also to be involved as alumni. It provides members with the ability to connect and network with individuals of all ages by sharing a common bond.

The Fraternities and Sororities reached record recruitment this year, thanks to a steady increase in the number of students who want to be involved in Greek life. The Office of Greek Life hopes to increase its numbers with qualified candidates year after year.

Greek students are involved in organizations such as the Student Government Association, Lambda Sigma Honor Society, Afro-American Student Organization, The Southerner, The Legacy, Baptist Student Union, University Activities Council, Dixie Darlings, Southern Misses, and Southern Style. "Greek students are leaving their mark on campus daily by being involved with so many other organizations and within the community," Ward said.

Greeks also show their ability to become successful leaders through dedication and community service. Each sorority and fraternity have their own philanthropy week to get students involved with community service. With events ranging from Que-Delta Week to Songfest to the Haunted House, Greeks are always finding ways to give back.

The men of the Interfraternity Council are selected each year into a brotherhood of learning, leading, and social networking that will stay with them for a lifetime. "The men of the IFC are given the opportunity to be educated and experience life lessons that will open many doors for them in the future." says Josh Manino, former president of the Interfraternity Council. Regardless of the organization you join, going Greek truly has its benefits.

The Office of Greek Life is determined to organize events that all students, not just Greek members, can attend and participate. The members of Greek Life use their experiences to encourage students to expand their mind and make the most out of their college experience.

Story by Tamora McConnell



The advisors to the Office of Greek Life aid in the developement and funictionality of Greek Life at Southern Miss. Advisors are Carey Mays, Brandy Filpi, Erin Munton, and Tommy Cullinan.
Photo by Calvin Wu



The officers of the Interfraternity Council strive to uphold the standards and traditions of the IFC.
Photo by Cathy Hayes



The officers of the College Panhellenic Council maintain the order and unity between all ladies in the CPC.
Photo by Calvin Wu



The men and women of the National Pan-hellenic Council uphold the values and traditions of all the members of the NPHC.
Photo by Brettany Payne

“They were **Genuine...** like **Me**”



Tri Delta member Shannon Hauptmann joyously embraces a new Delta after the girls signed their bids. *Photo by Eric Huckabee*



The Alpha Tau Omega chapter welcomes their new members to a fun time of brotherly mud wrestling. *Photo by Calvin Wu*



The ladies of Chi Omega anxiously await for the new baby hooties to make thier way from the freshman quad. *Photo by Eric Huckabee*



Will Clarke, Jimmy Aitken, Mark Hamrick, Paul Stafiej, and Ransom Clarke show spirit for their fraternity on bid day. *Photo by Calvin Wu*



Cassie Schwartzman and Anni Portera run ecstaticly to meet their new sorority sisters. *Photo by Eric Huckabee*

A New Chapter

IFC and CPC Formal Recruitment

...The story gets better with every page

There are twenty-eight major Greek letter organizations on campus, and about ten percent of Southern Miss students currently hold membership in one of these organizations. Two weeks before the school year starts, new students from all over the country migrate to campus to begin the Greek recruitment process. This period is not only a time for students to learn about the sororities and fraternities, but also a time to learn about themselves and what they can gain from their college experience.

Each sorority and fraternity meets with potential members. For the girls, the process is more involved. Candidates move to campus before classes begin and attend presentations by each sorority. These students rank their choices, slowly trimming down their lists as recruitment progresses. By the end, each girl receives a bid from only one sorority. They get their bid cards and traditionally would run to Wilbur Hall; but this year, pending the completion of the Village, the girls sprinted towards the District to meet with their new sisters.

The process is more relaxed for the fraternities. Their recruitment period is typically during September, with the students visiting each fraternity and ranking their choices as they go. The men have up to three choices on Bid Day, when they sign their bid card at the Payne Center and make the run down the row to their new home. For both sororities and fraternities, current members give up their affiliations for recruitment to dedicate their time to helping the entire Greek system.

Tara Gremillion, head of Gamma Rho Chi, the recruitment organization for sororities, said the sororities reached a record number in recruitment this year. "We were really excited to see so many great girls coming through," Gremillion said "I was happy to see so many of them join organizations that were the best fit for them." The recruitment process helps students meet people in all sororities and connect with people not only in their chapter but across campus, according to Gremillion.

Many students were surprised at how much they enjoyed the process. "It was not stressful," said Molly Engel, a freshman food and nutrition major from Foley, Alabama and a new member of Chi Omega sorority. Like most students, Engel came to Southern Miss alone and knew no one. Recruitment helped her to meet the friends she has now. "I didn't think I was a sorority girl in high school," Engel said, "but it was so much fun. Every girl should do it."

Recruitment also helps the students break out of their shells and get involved on campus. "I know more people and do things instead of sitting in my room like most freshman," said Paul Stafliej, a freshman broadcast production major from Coral Springs, Florida and a member of Pi Kappa Phi Fraternity. "During recruitment, everyone made me feel welcome and I enjoyed it," Stafliej said. "I chose my fraternity because they were genuine and more like me."

Recruitment allows the new members to realize how strong they are and strive to be the best they can be. These recruitment traditions have continued to grow and help the sororities and fraternities reach a peak in membership. The Greek community hopes that this growth trend will continue.

Story by Tamora McConnell



Each Greek organization has thier own tradition for celebrating bid day. Here students mud wrestle at the Delta Tau Delta house.
Photo by Calvin Wu



Jill McAllister of Phi Mu welcomes new member Ashton Capers after the traditional running of the girls to their sororities.
Photo by Eric Huckabee

No Place Like Home

The Village

One of the latest additions to the Southern Miss campus, The Village, opened in the beginning of the fall to house the university's twelve sororities, scholarship women, and women's basketball team. The sororities' former housing in Wilber Hall, better known as Panhellenic, now serves as a general female residence hall.

The University of Southern Mississippi's Division of Student Affairs officially announced the development of The Village on March 2, 2005. It currently houses eight College Pan-Hellenic Council sororities and four National Pan-Hellenic Council sororities. Wren Ward, a senior speech communication major from Little Rock, Arkansas, and president of the Collge Panhellenic Council said "The Village allows for each sorority to have a place to call its own."

The Village is composed of nine 30-bed structures, one duplex dormitory, and a 60-person upper-class scholarship women's residence hall. A general-use facility, including a laundry room, vending machine room, various meeting rooms, a catering kitchen, and management offices will also be placed to accommodate students' needs. The general use facility will have an attached patio with a view to a centralized park accessible to all residence structures within The Village. Allison Combes, a junior sociology major and member of Tri Delta sorority from Madison, Mississippi, said "The Village is something that will attract more girls who would usually go elsewhere because it provides them with housing outside of a typical residence hall."

The $18 million project is located on 10 acres of land formerly occupied by a portion of the Pine Haven Family Housing complex. The Village provides the sororities of Southern Miss with a more comfortable homey environment in which to grow. Its establishment has enabled the sororities to host events throughout the year, such as Trick or Treat on Greek Street, and will host its first recruitment in fall of 2008.

Zoe Beckham, a sophmore English licensure major and member of Chi Omega sorority from Mandeville, Louisiana, said "Southern Miss is in a momentous phase of growth and expansion, and the Village is just one example of this growth. The completion of the sorority bouses elevates the credibility of the Greek system and increases the appeal of Greek life to collegiate women. The Village allows Southern Miss to be more competitive with other state universities."

Story by Holli Quiroz

Background Photo by Brettany Payne



Sami Buttler and her Alpha Delta Pi sorority sister enjoy each others comany while going over class notes.
Photo by Brettany Payne



Holly Duke of Kappa Delta sorority enjoyes the luxury of the personal bathrooms that accommodate every room.
Photo by Brettany Payne



Two ladies of Delta Delta Delta sorority check Facebook for the latest news feed.
Photo by Madison Davis



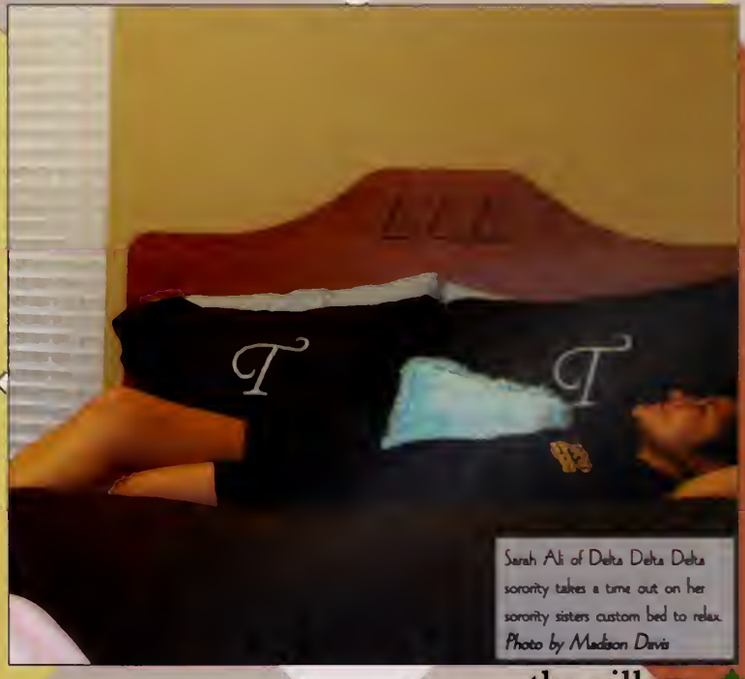
Rachel Hall and Tamara Hall enjoy sisterly bonding while practicing their studious habits.
Photo by Brettany Payne



Robin Smith and Mandy Roberts of Delta Gamma sorority prepare for Songfest hosted by Chi Omega sorority. *Photo by Brettany Payne*



Mimsie Ladner and Kelly Phan of Pi Beta Phi sorority celebrate the Christmas season by decorating the house.
Photo by Brettany Payne



Sarah Ali of Delta Delta Delta sorority takes a time out on her sorority sisters custom bed to relax.
Photo by Madison Davis

GREEKS GIVING BACK

Greek Philanthropic Events

Philanthropy is defined as a concern for human welfare, the act of giving something for the betterment of others: money, time, attention, or effort. For the countless men and women who have given of themselves, Greek Life is about philanthropy. Fraternities and sororities have long served as a driving force for charity and community service both on campus and in the larger community.

According to the Office of Community Service Learning, almost 90% of all volunteerism and service done on campus is provided by a small collection of groups, with fraternities and sororities making up a large portion of this number.

"The Greek community plays a huge role in campus volunteerism," said Joshua Duplantis, a member of the Office of Community Service Learning. "Most Greek organizations do a great job of relaying their service hours to us, but we don't even get reports from all the Greek organizations."

"Philanthropy is huge," said Dana Woodcock, a senior business administration major from McComb, Mississippi and the Chairperson of Philanthropy for Chi Omega sorority. "You can't walk five steps during the spring semester and not see a charity drive. Everyone is so dedicated to what they do. It's just a big part of Greek unity: helping people."

This year, the Greek system also worked with the Office of Community Service Learning to reach new heights of charity during a canned food drive. The drive itself took place during Greek Week in conjunction with National Hunger and Homelessness Week in November. Over 6,500 canned goods were raised for local food pantries and soup kitchens, with an astounding 4,500 of those canned goods coming solely from Greek donations.

It is easy to think of these acts of charity as coming from huge, faceless groups, but behind every sorority donation or fraternity volunteer drive are people, all motivated to give. For Dana Woodcock, her drive to contribute as a Greek was based on her past experiences with charity.

"I've always had a big appreciation for the Make-A-Wish Foundation," she said. "It was so special to get a chance to really get to see the ins and outs of how they work, and to get to put faces with the names when we worked with them.

In the end, every unselfish act can make a difference in the lives of others. It is this dedication to philanthropy that sets Greek organizations apart from any other groups on any campus, and insures that, for generations to come, fraternities and sororities will continue to groom better men and women.

Story by Elliot Freeman

Background Photo by Eric Huckabee



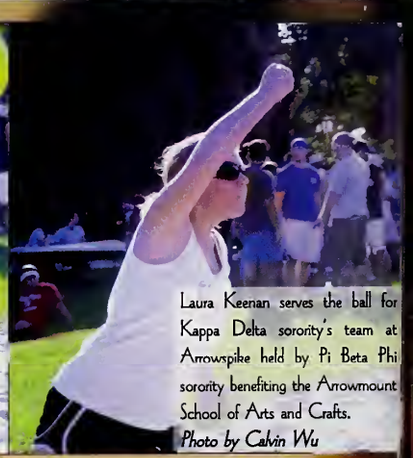
Chi Omega Emily Hagin helps Kappa Alpha Psi men Trey Lee and Osa Ogiamien find their fraternity's container to donate money for the Make-A-Wish foundation.

Photo by Briana Dekemel









Laura Keenan serves the ball for Kappa Delta sorority's team at Arrowspike held by Pi Beta Phi sorority benefiting the Arrowmount School of Arts and Crafts.

Photo by Calvin Wu



The ladies of Delta Delta Delta sorority compete in Delta Gamma sorority's annual Anchor Splash dance competition. Tri Delta won first place in the dance contest. Funds raised at Anchor Splash go towards Service for Sight.
Photo by Christopher Bostick



The men of the 2007 Alpha Tau Omega pledge class perform a rendition of N'sync Christmas carols at Chi Omega sorority's annual songfest competition benefiting the Make-A-Wish Foundation.
Photo by Briana Dekemel

"Every **unselfish act** *can* **make** *a* ***difference"***

STEP HOP AND DROP IT

Sending a Message...

As a historical form of communication and story telling, stepping has long been performed by fraternities and sororities that belong to the National Pan Hellenic Council (NPHC), an organization which directs traditionally African-American national sororities and fraternities. Stepping began when fraternity brothers would gather in the quad, which graduated to dancing and eventually the two fused as stepping. Phi Beta Sigma members initiated stepping in the 50's and 60's, though sororities didn't start stepping until several years after the fraternities.

Stepping back in the 50's and 60's served as a code for African Americans to tell their story, since speaking out was often dangerous. African Americans of the era used stepping to explore traditional African ritual dances. Today, fraternities and sororities perform step and hop contests as a way to send particular messages to their audience. Most step routines serve simply as entertainment, though they can still send very positive messages that can captivate audiences.

"Step and hop contests provide creative entertainment for the campus while displaying the pride of each individual in his or her fraternity or sorority," said Keith Lampkin, a senior political science major from Bentonia, Mississippi. "I look forward to stepping in them each year."

Fraternities and sororities also use stepping as fundraising and recruitment tools. The contests provide exposure for each specific organization. Troy McCormick, a senior sports administration major from New Orleans, Louisiana said " stepping, for me, is a form of expression and a historic form of entrainment for black Greeks."

The National Pan Hellenic Council hosts an annual step show usually consisting of 6 to 8 teams, all comprised of different organizations whch perform routines that usually last from 10 to 12 minutes. The routines usually have themes such as police, doctors, actors, or even television shows. Teams compete for prize money ranging around $1,000 to $1,500. "Step shows let black Greek letter organizations showcase their talents in front of big audience," said Erick McGee, a senior music major from Jackson, Mississippi .

Stepping has become very intricate and demanding through the incorporation of props, high levels of gymnastics, and other elements found in different sports. Through a wide variety of movements and music, fraternities and sororities celebrate their growth while maintaining their heritage.

Story by Marchandria Thomas



Jerwaskie Coleman, Sedrick Jackson, Jonnie Turnipseed, and Eric Brundidge step durring "be out day" sponsored by Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority.

Photo by Brettany Payne



The men of Phi Beta Sigma fraternity present a "I love New York" step routine during the annual step show.

Photo by Franklin Williams



Daniel Faulner, Boris Rhodes, and David Barney of Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity step during Q Week.

Photo by Brettany Payne



The ladies of Delta Sigma Theta do it big at the step contest hosted during Que Week.

Photo by Brettany Payne



The ladies of Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority present a class act step routine in front of the Hub on their "be out day" during Alpha Kappa Alpha week.

Photo by Brettany Payne



The gentlemen of Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity roll out the worm at the annual fall step show in Bennett Auditorium.

Photo by Franklin Williams

Greek Leadership

A Legacy of Service



Greek Life is a flourishing institution at Southern Miss, rich with traditions and history. Many students find friendship, community, and personal growth within the Greek system. These benefits draw Southern Miss students to participate in Greek Life year after year. However, one of the most important benefits Greek Life offers its students is a fertile environment for leadership.

Greek Life gives young students at Southern Miss a plethora of opportunities to develop their leadership skills, both within their own organizations and in the community at large. Greeks take active leadership roles in nearly every campus organization.

Erin R. Munton, the manager of Greek Life, considers student initiative in charity and social activities to be especially important in fostering leadership.

"Not only do students in Greek Life get to plan philanthropies, they plan parent weekends, brotherhood and sisterhood events and other chapter activities. Every time there is an event, a student is behind the planning process; a student is leading their chapter for a common goal."

Emily Guyton of the Student Activities Office agrees.

"Greek life provides college students with a platform for leadership," she said, while reflecting upon the variety of opportunities for involvement and leadership within the Greek community in the form of service projects, retreats, and inter-organization collaboration. "Greek organizations encourage their members to be active members of the local community as well as the university community."

Munton considers leadership invaluable to the balance and personal growth that Greek students seek to develop during their time at Southern Miss.

"Being a fraternity or sorority member means you work hard, study hard, and play when you can because in a Greek organization you work to balance your life and become a well rounded person and leader."

Story by Jeffrey Guillot

All Photos by Brettany Payne



Omari Pittman is a junior Leadership Scholar from Jackson, Mississippi majoring in human performance and recreation. Omari recieved the Most Outstanding Freshmen award and was Vice President of Freshmen Associates and a Leadership Ambassador. Omari is Social Chair for Lambda Sigma, SGA Elections Commissioner, a member of the University Activities Council, Men of Excellence, Eagle Connection, Southern Style '07, and still has time to be a Resident Assistant in Bond Hall. He has volunteered countless hours at the Mississippi Medical Center, where he assisted with injured patients. After college Omari plans to obtain an athletic training position with a professional football team. Omari is a new member of the Kappa Iota chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi, Inc.



Gail Sims is a junior Luckday Scholar from Meridian, Mississippi majoring in biological sciences and working towards a minor in economics. Gail has cheered as a Southern Miss cheerleader and was also named Most Outstanding Freshmen. She is a member of Beta Beta Beta, Order of Omega, Lambda Sigma, and the Golden Key International Honor Society. Gail served as director of Homecoming and the director of the Miss University of Southern Mississippi Pageant for the SGA. Gail was a member of Freshmen Associates, Freshmen Council, Baptist Student Union and the Legacy. Gail is an outstanding and hardworking member of the Epsilon Delta chapter of Chi Omega where she serves as vice president.



Jamecia Jackson is a senior from Canton, Mississippi majoring in industrial engineering technology and minoring in Spanish. She volunteers for Habitat for Humanity and at the Harper-Wallin Family Education Center. Jamecia is a Dean's List Scholar, Nissan Scholar, member of Gamma Beta Phi Honor Society, the Order of Omega, and is the first person from Southern Miss to receive a National Society of Black Engineers National Scholarship. She is a member of I.M.A.G.E, N.S.B.E, and is a student Ambassador for the College of Science and Technology. Jamecia is a proud and dedicated member of the Iota Kappa chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha, Inc., where she serves as the Scholarship Chair and corresponding secretary.



Nathan Herrin is a freshmen born here in Hattiesburg at Forrest General Hospital and grew up in Purvis, Mississippi. Nathan has only been at the University of Southern Mississippi since this August, but has become quite an impressive freshman. Nathan is a member of the Legacy and is extremely involved in intramural sports. He is also a member of Freshman Associates and serves on the Random Acts of School Spirit Committee. Nathan is a member of the Epsilon Nu chapter of Kappa Sigma fraternity and served as this fall's pledge class president. He is also a member of the recruitment committee for the fraternity.

Biographies by Brettany Payne

Alpha Delta Pi

"We Live for Each Other"



The ladies of the Eta Zeta chapter of Alpha Delta Pi celebrated a successful recruitment in fall of 2007. Here the ladies pose before performing at Chi Omega Songfest. *Photo by Brettany Payne*

Alpha Delta Pi was founded on May 15, 1851 at Wesleyan Female College in Macon, Georgia. Alpha Delta Pi holds the distinction of being the first secret society for women and the mother of today's sorority system. They were founded on the principles of scholarship, leadership, service to others and sisterhood. These principles still guide the policies and programs of the sorority today.

Alpha Delta Pi has a longstanding history of giving. Alpha Delta Pi partnered with the Ronald McDonald House Charities in 1979, becoming the first sorority to nationally support a philanthropy.

To raise money locally, Alpha Delta Pi hosts the "Lion's Share Challenge," which centers around a dodgeball tournament on campus, with all of the sororites and fraternities participating.

The ladies of Alpha Delta Pi worked very hard to make sure that this year's event was bigger and better than ever.

Story Submitted by Alpha Delta Pi

Background Photo by Eric Huckabee



The ladies of the 2007 pledge class show their Southern Miss spirit before riding in the Homecoming Parade. *Photo Submitted by Alpha Delta Pi*



The ladies of Alpha Delta Pi enjoy a Saturday afternoon together, tailgating in the District before heading to the Rock. *Photo Submitted by Alpha Delta Pi*



Jessica Webster is greated by Ashley Long on bid day. The girls celebrated in the District and then retreated to an off-campus location to celebrate.
Photo by Christopher Bostick

"The first, the finest, forever"

Alpha Kappa Alpha

"By Culture and by Merit"

Founded on the campus of Howard University in Washington, D.C. in 1908, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. is the oldest Greek-letter sorority established by African American women. Alpha Kappa Alpha became a part of the University of Southern Mississippi with the formation of the Iota Kappa chapter on April 12, 1975.

The Iota Kappa chapter works hard to implement numerous special projects, events, and community and campus activities. With the main focus of the organization being "supreme in service to all mankind," the ladies of Iota Kappa work to emphasize this goal in their five platforms which include: the non-traditional entrepreneur, economic keys to success, economic growth of the Black family, cconomic educational advancement through technology, and health resource management and economics. The ladies of Iota Kappa also work towards this goal through their participation in many community service activities such as the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service.

The main philanthropies of the chapter include the Mr. Esquire Pageant, in which a freshman female minority is awarded a scholarship based on merit and academic achievements and males compete for an annual award. Other community service projects they support include the California Fire Victims and the American Cancer Society, sponsor local African American families during their times of need, and organize Ivy Day, a day of empowering the local youth. Other programs that the Iota Kappa chapter hosts include: Alpha Kappachino, the AKA Book Club, the Breast Cancer Awareness Program, and the Seven Shades of Black.

As the first and only National Pan-Hellenic sorority to have lived in Wilbur Hall, the Iota Kappa chapter continues to be trendsetters by being the only NPHC sorority to have their own house in The Village. These ladies continue to implement numerous community and campus activities, special projects, and events.

As the only African American sorority to celebrate 100 years of service, they strongly live by their motto, "By culture and merit," possessing the spirit of sisterhood and providing service to everyone in their path.

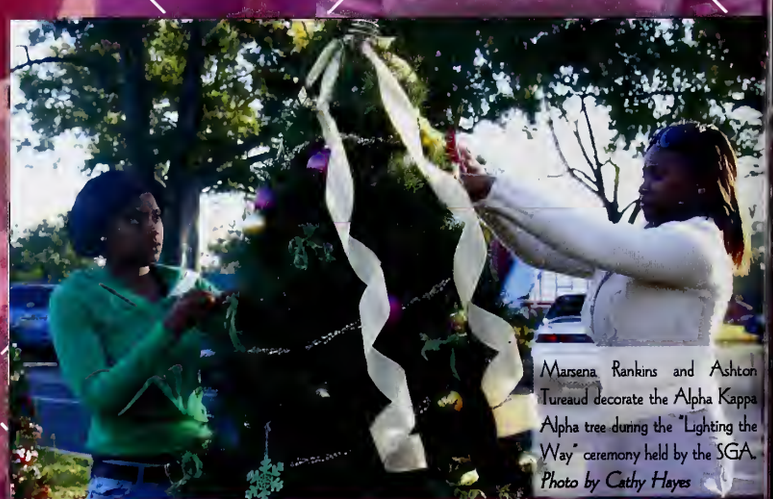
Story Submitted by Alpha Kappa Alpha

Background Photo by Brettany Payne

"Women all over the world...



The ladies of AKA held a money drop fundraiser to support the victims of the California wild fires.
Photo by Brettany Payne

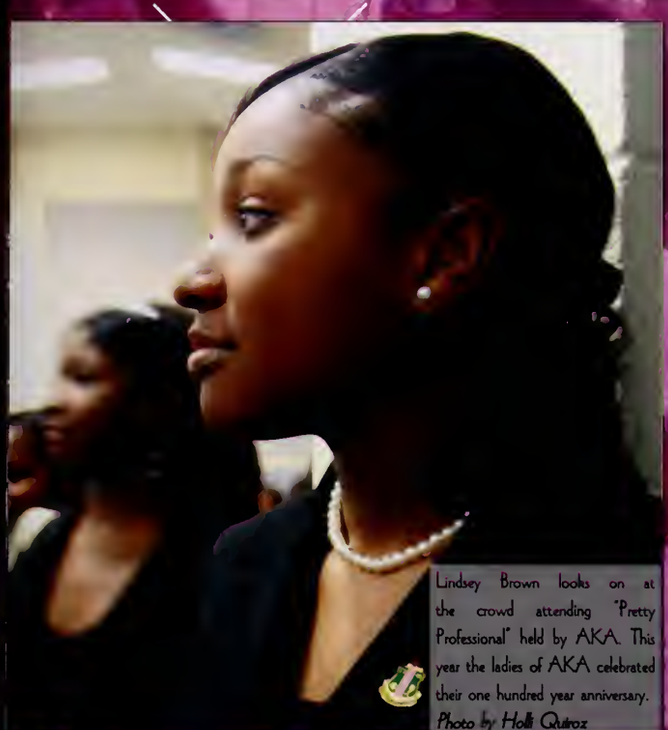


Marsena Rankins and Ashton Tureaud decorate the Alpha Kappa Alpha tree during the "Lighting the Way" ceremony held by the SGA.
Photo by Cathy Hayes

...proudly wear their twenty pearls."



Sorority sisters from the Iota Kappa chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha pose for a group photo outside their new home. Iota Kappa was chartered in the spring of 1975 on Southern Miss campus.
Photo by Brettany Payne



Lindsey Brown looks on at the crowd attending "Pretty Professional" held by AKA. This year the ladies of AKA celebrated their one hundred year anniversary.
Photo by Holli Quiroz



Jessica Pride, Shenika Ivy, Adrianne Anthony, and Cheree Albritton celebrate at the fall commencement ceremony.
Photo by Brettany Payne

Chi Omega

"Hellenic Culture and Christian Ideals"



The ladies of of the Epsilon Delta chapter of Chi Omega welcome their new members after an exciting week of formal recruitement. The girls celebrated afterwards at their bid day party held by an alumni.
Photo Submitted by Chi Omega

The Epsilon Delta chapter of Chi Omega was founded on the Southern Miss campus in 1949. Since then, the ladies of Chi Omega have built a tradition of and reputation for excellence, class, and grace.

Since the organization's original founding in 1895, Chi Omega has had a long standing commitment to high moral standards, academic excellence, sisterhood, community service, campus involvement, career and personal developement.

The women of the Epsilon Delta chapter have been recognized nationally for their outstanding excellence in upholding the principals and traditions of the true Chi Omega lady.

Each year, Chi Omega exceeds their goal in raisng funds for thier national philanthropy, the Make-A-Wish Foundation. Songfest is held each fall by the ladies of Epsilon Delta in order to allow all Greek organizations to compete for outstanding choral presentation. This year, Chi Omega raised $26,000 to grant the wishes of children diagnosed with terminal illnesses.

Chi Omegas have and will continue to exceed the standards of excellence set forth by their founders and generations past. The ladies of Epsilon Delta are leading a legacy of watchful persistance in leadership and womanhood.

Story by Holli Quiroz
Background Photo by Christopher Bostic



Holli Quiroz, Amanda Hammond, and Zoe Beckham show their support for Southern Miss while tailgating at the Chi Omega tent in the District.
Photo Submitted by Chi Omega



Holly Pace, Kelley Estes, Chasity Mclemore, Haley Stiglets, and Gail Simms show their greek spirit at the Olympic Games held during Greek Week.
Photo by Holli Quiroz



The ladies of Chi Omega congradulate their sister Ashley Cangelosi on becoming Miss Southern Miss. The ladies were more than proud to be represented on this year's homecoming court.
Photo Submitted by Chi Omega



Audrey Feeney embraces new member Mary Schindler after the sorority run tradition. The girls were greeted with t-shirts and owl name tags to mark their welcome to Chi Omega.
Photo by Christopher Bostick

"To be womanly Always, To be Discouraged never"



The ladies of Chi Omega hold their annual Mother, Father, Daughter Day celebrating the importance of family support, growth, and personal developement.
Photo Submitted by Chi Omega



Members of the 2007 pledge class, also known as "baby hooties," posed by the adopted Chi Omega tree before singing for the first ever tree lighting ceremony held by the SGA.
Photo Submitted by Chi Omega

Delta Delta Delta

"Let Us Steadfastly Love One Another"



The ladies of Delta Delta Delta sorority celebrate the end of recruitment week at Lake Serene, welcoming the new members to their organizations.
Photo Submitted by Tri Delta

We use one letter, three times over because our letters are the same both ways; when you look at them in the mirror, you see them in their true form, representing that in Tri Delta, we show true reflections of ourselves.

For the ladies of the Phi Epsilon Chapter of Delta Delta Delta, this quote hits home in every aspect of their lives. Whether its raising money for St. Jude Children's Cancer Research Hospital, competing in philanthropic events, or having a sleepover in the chapter room, these ladies always remain true to their sisterhood.

From their founding here at Southern Miss in 1951, the ladies of Delta Delta Delta have worked to establish a perpetual bond of friendship among its members.

This year, Tri Delt hosted the first annual Tri Delta golf tournament, which raised over $7,000 for St. Jude and involved countless businesses from throughout the Hattiesburg and Oak Grove communities.

This was in addition to their already successful Triple Play softball tournament in the spring. The Tri Deltas are always looking for new ideas to contribute to Children's Cancer Research and to the campus of Southern Miss. No matter what they are doing, the ladies of Delta Delta Delta continue to leave a legacy.

Story Submitted by Allison Combes

Background Photo by Christopher Bostick



Lill Netterville (Santa) and Deanna Ledbetter perform at Chi Omega's Songfest. Tri Delta took first place for sororities at the event.
Photo by Briana Dekemel



Megan Evans and Amber Shaffer await the running of the new members. The girls created colorful posters and signs welcoming the new Deltas.
Photo Submitted by Tri Delta

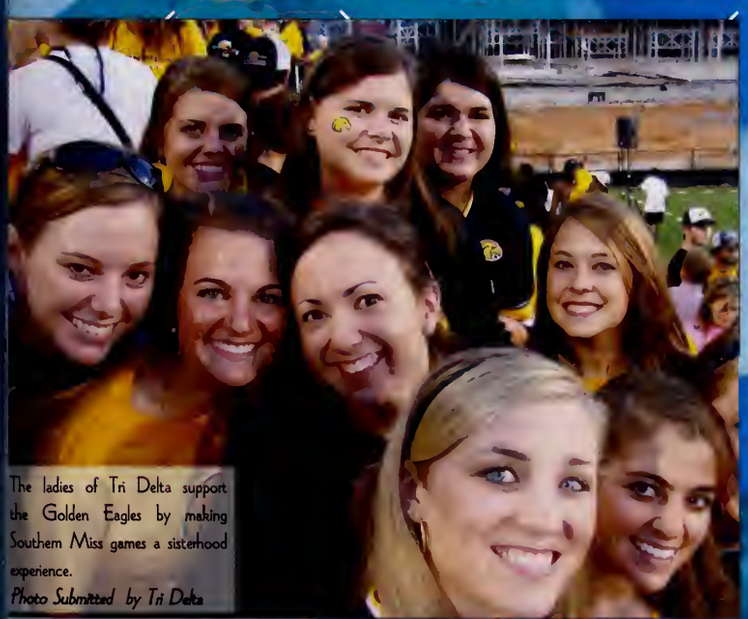
"A *cord* of **three** strands *is* not *easily* **broken**"



Heather Goldman and Courtney Nicosia perform "I'm Gettin' Nuttin' for Christmas" during the Tri Delta performance at Chi Omega Songfest.
Photo by Briana Dekemel



Lauren Hilton, Erin Sorey, Suzanna Ellzey, and Ashley Bateman enjoy getting dressed to impress by making social outings an opportunity for sistery bonding.
Photo Submitted by Tri Delta



The ladies of Tri Delta support the Golden Eagles by making Southern Miss games a sisterhood experience.
Photo Submitted by Tri Delta



Tri Deltas take advantage of off campus opportunities to spend time together such as "Octoberfest at the Mueller's."
Photo Submitted by Tri Delta

Delta Gamma

"Do Good"



The Delta Pi chapter of Delta Gamma has established a reputation of excellence and class on Southern Miss' campus. *Photo Submitted by Delta Gamma*

The Delta Pi chapter of Delta Gamma strives to "do good" in all aspects of collegiate life. Founded nationally in 1873, Delta Gammas excel in scholarship, service, and campus involvement while enjoying the bonds of sisterhood.

Dee Gee anchors itself in scholastic achievement. Their members are active in a number of honor societies and many have received prestigious scholarships. Delta Gamma's are consistently recognized on the Dean's and President's lists as well as Who's Who and Outstanding Freshman Female of the Year.

Delta Gamma is dedicated to raising money for individuals with visual impairments. Through their annual philanthropy event "Anchorsplash," a swimming relay games event and synchronized swimming dance contest, Delta Gamma raises money for Service for Sight and the Mississippi School for the Blind.

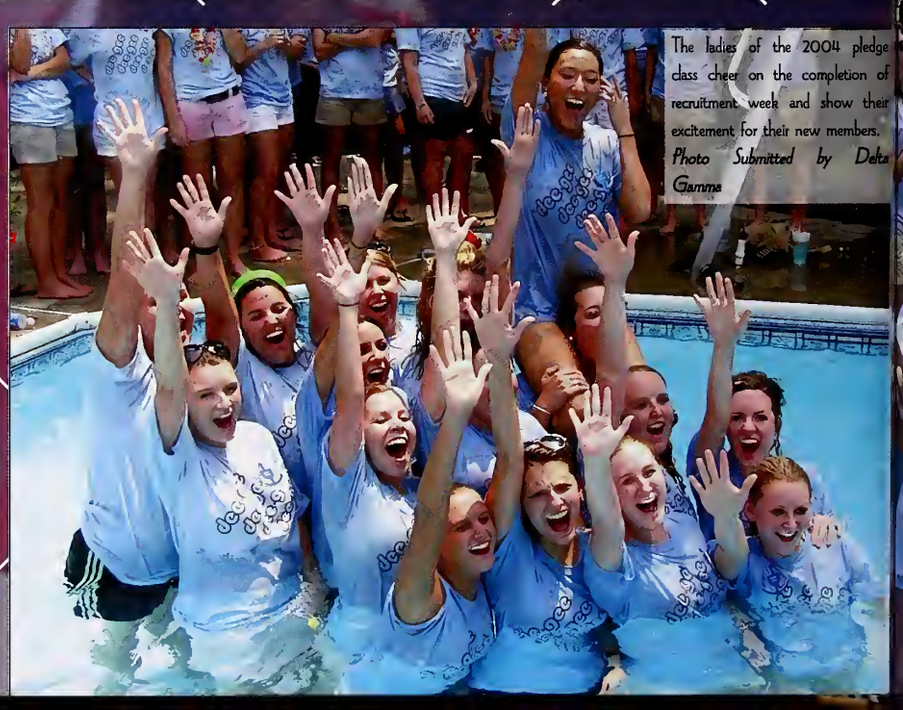
In addition, the ladies of Delta Gamma give back to the Hattiesburg community through a variety of service projects throughout the year. This year, the chapter has played bingo at the Wesley Retirement Community, built houses for Habitat for Humanity and tutored children at local elementary schools.

For the ladies of Delta Gamma, Dee Gee is a place to call home: a place to grow as a student, servant, and sister.

Story Submitted by Delta Gamma

Background Photo by Briana Dekem





The ladies of the 2004 pledge class cheer on the completion of recruitment week and show their excitement for their new members. *Photo Submitted by Delta Gamma*



The ladies of Delta Gamma take sisterhood to the wild outdoors at their retreat. *Photo Submitted by Delta Gamma*



Sarah Kathryn Cronier and Melissa Lang enjoy nights out on the town full of fun and sisterly bonding. *Photo Submitted by Delta Gamma*



The ladies of Delta Gamma welcome the 2007 pledge class after the run at the completion of recruitment week. *Photo Submitted by Delta Gamma*

"Personal
integrity,
Personal
responsibility,
Intellectual
honesty"

Delta Sigma Theta

"Intelligence is the Torch of Wisdom"



Members of DST pose for a group shot inside their new home in The Village. Delta Sigma Theta was founded in 1913 by twenty-two outstanding young women at Howard University.
Photo by Brettany Payne

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated was founded on the campus of Howard University in Washington, D.C by twenty-two astounding women on January 13, 1913.

In the ninty-five years since its founding, the sisterhood has grown to encompass over 200,000 phenomenal women with over 900 chapters in the United States, England, Japan, Germany, the Virgin Islands, Bermuda, the Bahamas, and the Republic of Korea. The sorority's major programs are based on a Five-Point Thrust with areas of interest being: Economic Development, Educational Development, International Awareness and Involvement, Physical and Mental Health, and Political Awareness and Involvement.

The Mu Nu Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated was chartered by nine dynamic trailblazers on July 27, 1975 at Southern Miss. Sisterhood, scholarship, and public service remain the guiding principles of the organization to this day. The ladies of Delta Sigma Theta strive for excellence and continue to raise the bar in academic achievement, philanthropy, and campus leadership.

Recent accomplishments of the ladies of the Mu Nu Chapter include awards for public relations and philanthropy from the Office of Greek Life and the Frank Allen Cain Memorial Community Service Award in 2006-2007 for extensive contributions to service learning, teaching, publication, and practice.

Story Submitted by Delta Sigma Theta

Background Photo by Brettnay Payne



New members of Delta Sigma Theta performed at Delta Through the Years, a coming-out show for the sorority's new sisters. Forty-three girls performed and were welcomed at the fall show.
Photo by Brettany Payne



Ladies of Delta Sigma Theta pose with gentlemen of Kappa Alpha Psi while out in Shoemaker Square.
Photo by Brettany Payne

"When asked Why be a Delta? She replied, It's just in my *Heart*"



The DST ladies show off their rhythm and attitude while stepping outside the union.
Photo by Brettany Payne



Christine Downs and Ly'Syria Selmon volunteered their time and sweat to help freshmen move into the quad. Delta Sigma Theta is always very active with freshmen move-in day.
Photo by Christy Dyess



Delta Sigma Theta members celebrated the graduation of their sisters at the December ceremony. The Mu Nu chapter graduated ten members this fall.
Photo by Brettany Payne

Kappa Alpha Theta

"Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow..."



The ladies of Kappa Alpha Theta stop to take a picture before "Mi CASA es su CASA," a taco night to raise money for Theta's philanthropy. *Photo Submitted by Kappa Alpha Theta*

Kappa Alpha Theta, the first Greek-letter sorority for women, was founded at Southern Miss in 1998. In the nine years since it's chartering, Theta has left its mark on campus through service, intramurals, leadership and sisterhood.

Court Appointed Special Advocates, or CASA, works with children who have been removed from their homes by providing them a voice in court. "Kicks for CASA" is an annual kickball tournament hosted by Kappa Alpha Theta to raise money for this worthy cause. This year, "Mi CASA es su CASA," a taco night, was also held.

Thetas also give back to the university and Hattiesburg community through a variety of service projects each year. Chapter members volunteered with Habitat for Humanity, Southern Pines Animal Shelter, and the Lighthouse Project. For the past three years, the chapter won the "Paint the Campus Pink" sorority decorating contest during Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

Each year, Kappa Alpha Theta excels in intramurals. This year, Theta was the sorority champion in volleyball and bowling and league champions in dodgeball and wiffle ball.

From sisterhood retreats and game nights to tailgaiting and date parties, Thetas love to have a good time. Sisterhood opportunities are one of the most rewarding parts of the sorority experience.

The Zeta Psi chapter of Kappa Alpha Theta has definitely impacted campus in the past nine years. The ladies of Theta look forward to celebrating ten years of sisterhood at Southern Miss in the upcoming year.

Story by Emily Guyton

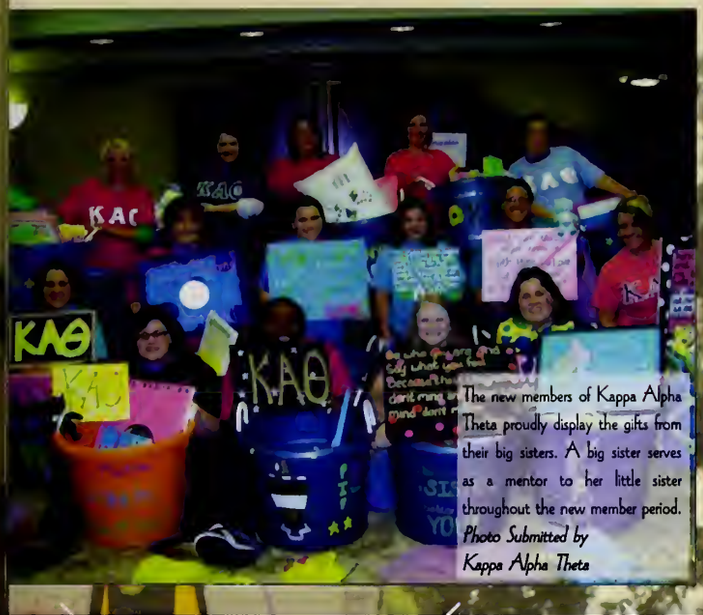
Background Photo by Eric Huckabee



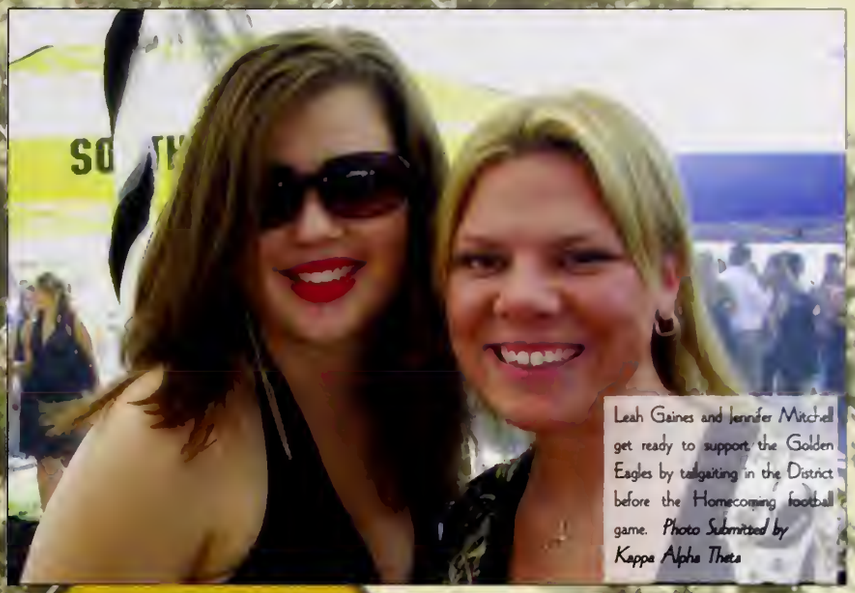
Ashlee Beniot, Sara Lowrey and Allison Burnett are all dressed up for the "Into the Mystic" formal. *Photo Submitted by Kappa Alpha Theta*



Kristen Jennings, Sara Braud and Melissa Ladner are all smiles during Theta's performance at Chi Omega's Songfest. *Photo by Christopher Bostick*



The new members of Kappa Alpha Theta proudly display the gifts from their big sisters. A big sister serves as a mentor to her little sister throughout the new member period. *Photo Submitted by Kappa Alpha Theta*



Leah Gaines and Jennifer Mitchell get ready to support the Golden Eagles by tailgaiting in the District before the Homecoming football game. *Photo Submitted by Kappa Alpha Theta*



Kelly Mason and Danielle Ely take the time to pose for a picture during a sisterhood event. *Photo submitted by Kappa Alpha Theta*

"Only the best wear Black and Gold"



Lisa Wentzell, Kristen Jennings and Sara Lowrey display their love for the black and gold in the Homecoming Parade. *Photo Submitted by Kappa Alpha Theta*

Kappa Delta

"Honorable, Beautiful, and Highest"

In 1897 Kappa Delta sorority was established in Richmond, Virginia. Since then, the women of Kappa Delta have become a nationally recognized organization providing an environment of high standards and service for the enrichment of the lives of young women and the communities in which they reside.

Kappa Delta Sorority began supporting Prevent Child Abuse America in 1981, and began the nationwide Shamrock Event in 1983. More than $6 million has been raised through these events to benefit child abuse prevention efforts across the country.

Eighty percent of the proceeds collected from Kappa Delta's Shamrock events--including the Beauty and Beau Review, the Pancake Breakfast and 5K Fun Run--will remain in Mississippi, benefiting the Hattiesburg Child Abuse Center.

The remaining 20 percent will go to Prevent Child Abuse America (PCA America), the sorority's national philanthropy, for nationwide public awareness programs. They will join thousands of Kappa Deltas across the country in the fund-raiser to benefit local affiliates and chapters of PCA America.

Story Submitted by Kappa Delta

Background Photo by Christopher Bostick



Freshman Kappa Deltas throw up their sign in excitement before running to join their new family at Southern Miss.
Photo by Jaime McKercher



The ladies of the 2007 pledge class supported the Golden Eagles durring the Homecoming Parade while riding on their float.
Photo by Eric Huckabee



The Beta Sigma chapter of Kappa Delta, foumded here at Southern Miss in 1949, has a long standing tradition of excellence, service and friendship.
Photo Submitted by Kappa Delta



The Kappa Delta sisters are no strangers to going all out when it comes to getting dressed up and decked out. The girls share fun times together in all their ensemble.
Photo Submitted by Kappa Delta



The ladies of Kappa Delta make Southern Miss spirit a sisterhood must. The ladies suppport their Southern Miss Eagles while tailgating in the District.
Photo Submitted by Kappa Delta

"More Faithful, More Loving, More Noble"

Phi Mu

"Love, Honor, Truth"



The ladies of Phi Mu welcome their new memebers after the completion of formal recruitment. They celebrated afterwards at their bid day celebration party to welcome the new girls.
Photo Submitted by Phi Mu

Since the organization was originally founded at Wesleyan College in Macon, Georgia in 1852, the ladies of Phi Mu Fraternity have been dedicated to spreading the ideals of Love, Honor, and Truth. The Alpha Omicron Chapter of Phi Mu was founded at The University of Southern Mississippi in 1954, and has since been devoted to propelling these ideals into the community through their works of philanthropy.

This year Phi Mu and Wesley Medical Center held their first annual Hoop-A-Palooza event to benefit the Children's Miracle Network, an organization created to aid children who are faced with serious illness. Phi Mu has also participated in the philanthropy events of a number of various Greek organizations and has earned numerous awards and acknowledgements.

The ladies of Phi Mu share a desire for excellence on the campus of Southern Miss and, while maintaining leadership and high standards, also hold a bond that cannot be matched. The years spent in college together may be few, but the memories shared as Phi Mu sisters are those that last a lifetime.

Story Submitted by Katelyn Ellzey

Background Photo by Eric Huckabee



The ladies of the 2007 pledge class participate in the Southern Miss homecoming parade. The girls showed their spirit by pumping up the Hattiesburg crowd.
Photo Submitted by Phi Mu



The Phi Mu girls know how to have a good time together while socializing at parties and outings.
Photo Submitted by Phi Mu



Twin sisters, Maria and Maley Morris, take advantage of any opportunity to have silly sisterly bonding. The laid back atmosphere of Southern Miss tailgating is no exception.
Photo Submitted by Phi Mu



Lindsay Belmont, Katelyn Ellzey, Emily Maurer, Emily Poche, and Kristi Ramey relax during the bid day celebration party to welcome the new members of Phi Mu.
Photo Submitted by Phi Mu

"To keep our **lives** gentle, **merciful,** just..."



Abby Benson, a sophmore member of Phi Mu, dives for the volleyball during Pi Beta Phi's Aerospike.
Photo by Calvin Wu



Christie Richards, Lindsay Belmont, and Fabi Gutierrez play three amigos in the "Feliz Navidad" portion of their Christmas around the world performance for Chi Omega Songfest.
Photo by Briana Dekernel

Pi Beta Phi

"Friends and Leaders for Life"



The ladies of Pi Beta Phi prepare to perform for Chi Omega Songfest. The girls rehearsed in their new home, which was beautifully decorated for the holidays.
Photo Submitted by Pi Beta Phi

The ladies of the Mississippi Alpha chapter of Pi Beta Phi have a promise and commitment to service, to each other and to their community.

Pi Beta Phi's philanthropic service deals with the promotion of literacy. In doing so, they host a program titled, "Champions Are Readers," in which they visit third grade classrooms and speak to them about the importance of literacy among their age group. In addition to speaking with them, they visit the classroom once a week for an entire semester, working with the children to improve their reading skills and to show them that reading is very important and that there are people out there who care about their success.

The groups philanthropic event is a sand volleyball tournament, called Arrowspike, and it is held in the fall semester of each year. Pi Beta Phi holds a book drive, in which the books go to benefit the children in the "Champions Are Readers" program, as well as their partner in promoting literacy, First Book. The money raised goes directly toward three causes--the Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts, the Pi Beta Phi Foundation, and the Staci Cochran-Davis Memorial Scholarship Fund.This year Pi Beta Phi raised $8500 to go towards their philanthopy.

Story Submitted by Pi Beta Phi

Background Photo by Briana Dekeme



The Pi Phi angels welcome their new memebers at the completeion of formal recruitment.
Photo Submitted by Pi Beta Phi



Pi Phi angels spend quality time together at parties and social gatherings. The girls dress in themed outfits to show off their creative and fun style.
Photo Submitted by Pi Beta Phi



The ladies of Pi Phi pose after performing for Sigma Chi Derby Days.
Photo Submitted by Pi Beta Phi



Pi Beta Phi solosist, Caitlin Sollie, sang like an angel during Chi Omega Songfest.
Photo by Christopher Bostick

"Sisters are the Angels that give you Wings when you've forgotten how to fly"



The ladies of Pi Phi pose with their sisters who served as Gamma Rho Chi's during formal recruitment.
Photo Submitted by Pi Beta Phi

Sigma Gamma Rho

"Greater Service, Greater Progress"

On November 12, 1922, seven school teachers started Sigma Gamma Rho at Butler University in Indianapolis, Indiana. Almost 50 years later, the Eta Tau chapter was founded on the Southern Miss campus by 20 motivated young ladies.

Sigma Gamma Rho offers its members the opportunity to develop unique talents through leadership, philanthropy, and sisterhood. Sigma women are dedicated to helping one another and their community.

The dedication of the Eta Tau chapter is reflected in their philanthropy projects, which include Operation Big Book Bag, Project Wee Savers, Program for Africa, the Mwanamugume essay-writing contest, Habitat for Humanity, National Education Foundation, Project Reassurance and Sigma Youth Symposium.

Sigma Gamma Rho's commitment to service is also expressed in its slogan, "Greater Service, Greater Progress." After 84 years of dedicated community service, education, and leadership, the ladies of Sigma Gamma Rho continue to uphold the tradition and expectations of its seven founders.

Story Submitted by Sigma Gamma Rho

Background Photo by Brettany Payne

"The Best *of* Women *wear* Blue and Gold"



The ladies of Sigma Gamma Rho pose with ladies from AKA in a pose representing the Greek unity among the NPHC at Southern Miss.

Photo Submitted by Carey Mays

The women of Sigma Gamma Rho are a small but select group of young women thriving on Southern Miss' campus. The Eta Tau chapter was founded on campus in 1975.
Photo by Brettany Payne



Participating in the NPHC Cookoff, the ladies of Sigma Gamma Rho represent their sisterhood spirit.
Photo by Shambry Clark



Sorority sisters from the Eta Tau chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho watched the performance of another chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho at the NPHC annual step contest.
Photo by Franklin Williams

Sigma Nu

"Love, Honor, Truth"



The gentlemen of the Theta Gamma Sigma Nu chapter are a group of men striving to live by the code of leadership, ethics, and personal development.
Photo Submitted by Sigma Nu

The Theta Gamma chapter of Sigma Nu was founded in 1968 at Southern Miss, and has since created a legacy of service and leadership that exemplifies the national organization.

Since its inception in 1869, Sigma Nu has used its fundamental qualities of love, honor, and truth to instill leadership qualities in all of its members. New members must complete the Leadership, Ethics, Achievement and Development program (LEAD), which teaches skills vital to success both in college and in occupational settings. Topics within this program include time management as well as professional development and others that set the bar for new members to the organization.

Although the Southern Miss chapter of Sigma Nu is not the largest of Greek organizations on campus, their impact on campus provides evidence of their strength and unity. This year the chapter sponsored a fish fry to benefit St. Jude's Hospital, the fraternity's national charity; and, due to the success of this event, it promises to be an annual occurrence.

In addition, Sigma Nu is highly active in all Greek Life events on campus and seeks to serve both the student community, the university and the greater Hattiesburg area.

Sigma Nu-Theta Gamma personifies the spirit of growth, and as the chapter continues to grow, their campus involvement also continues to strengthen. By revisiting the importance of philanthropic activity and developing plans to reshape the organization's image on campus, the men of Theta Gamma are catalyzing growth within the chapter, and are thus helping Southern Miss Greek Life and the university at large advance into a future of endless possibility and achievement.

Story by Chris Mills
Background Photos Submitted by Sigma Nu



The men of Sigma Nu pose for a group shot during their philanthropic "Fish Fry" benefiting St. Jude's Childrens Research Hospital.
Photo Submitted by Sigma Nu



The men of Sigma Nu welcome the new members of their 2007 pledge class at the conclusion of recruitment week.
Photo Submitted by Sigma Nu



The men of Sigma Nu enjoy nights out on the town. The guys dress to impress in fashion that reflects their individual personalities.
Photo Submitted by Sigma Nu

"To Serve in the Light of Truth"

Alpha Phi Alpha

"Scholarship and Love for all Mankind"



The gentlemen of the Mu Xi chapte of Alpha Phi Alpha are a proud group of young men following the principles o manhood, scholarship and love for all.
Photo Submitted by Alpha Phi Alpha

Alpha Phi Alpha, founded in 1906 is the first intercollegiate Greek-letter fraternity established for African-Americans. The Mu Xi Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha was officially chartered at the University of Southern Mississippi on October 23rd, 1982. Since its founding, Mu Xi continues to achieve excellencc in scholarship, service, and social activities. The fraternity strives for perfection and to uphold the light.

Some of the fraternity's philanthropies are the Mandigo Fest and A.P.E.S week. Mandingo Fest is a week dedicated not only to service but also to social events for the community.

A.P.E.S. stands for Alpha's Performing Excellent Service. Throughout the week, the men of the Mu Xi chapter strive to make a difference on the campus of Southern Miss as well the city of Hattiesburg. The week is highlighted with Mu Xi's elaborate Miss Black & Gold Scholarship Pageant. This year's Miss Black and Gold wa Aa'Keela Hudnall, a senior from Meridian Mississippi. The main focus of the Mu X chapter is service, as is evidenced by thei long list of service based activities.

Alpha Phi Alpha's motto "manly deeds scholarship and love for all mankind clearly relates the commitment to equalit the members of the organization share.

Story Submitted by Alpha Phi Alph

Background Photo by Brettany Pay



Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity breaks a sweat while participating in the outdoor step contest. *Photo by Brettany Payne*



The gentlemen of Alpha Phi Alpha express their creative flair at the annual NPHC step contest. *Photo by Franklin Williams*

"Servants of all, we shall transcend all"



Members of Alpha Phi Alpha represent their brotherhood and bonds by sporting their sign. *Photos Submitted by Carey Mays*

Alpha Tau Omega

"A Bond as Strong as Right Itself"



Whit Meeks, Josh Manino, George Napier, and Patrick Walker attend the Alpha Tau Omega formal held in New Orleans. *Photo Submitted by Alpha Tau Omega*



The 2007 pledge class of Alpha Tau Omega performed NSYNC at Chi Omega Songfest. *Photo by Christopher Bostick*

The gentlemen of the Epsilon Upsilon chapter of Alpha Tau Omega have impacted the Southern Miss campus since their founding here in 1949. Beneath the banner of brotherhood, flying high in blue and gold, the men of Alpha Tau Omega continue to leave a legacy of excellence among it's members.

Alpha Tau Omega held it's 23rd annual Crawfish Boil on March 29, 2008 at the Alpha Tau Omega house. The Epsilon Upsilon chapter's Crawfish Boil is one of Alpha Tau Omega's longest running philanthropies in the country with all of the proceeds benefiting Habitat for Humanity. The Crawfish Boil begins at 10 in the morning and ends by the afternoon. In addition to the 20,000 pounds of crawfish boiled, Alpha Tau Omega provides live entertainment and a volleyball tournment.

Alpha Tau Omega's tradition of excellence in philanthropic efforts reflect the long standing tradition of dedication and moral value their chapter is based upon.

Story by Holli Quiroz

Background Photo Submitted by Alpha Tau Omega

"To *teach* that **true** ***men*** the worldover should *stand* ***together***"



The men of Alpha Tau Omega welcome their new members to a day in the mud.
Photo by Calvin Wu



Alpha Tau Omega brothers Corey, Guss and their friends enjoy each others' company at their formal held on a New Orleans riverboat.
Photo Submitted by Alpha Tau Omega



Alpha Tau Omega is known in the Hattiesburg area for hosting their annual Haunted House. All proceeds raised benefit Habitat for Humanity.
Photo by Cathy Hayes Alpha Tau Omega



Alpha Tau Omega brothers Corey Fayette and Wesley Laurendine enjoy a night out of brotherly bonding.
Photo Submitted by Alpha Tau Omega

Delta Tau Delta

"Committed to Lives of Excellence"



The gentlemen of the Zeta Chi chapter welcomed their new members to a wild mud pit party at the completion of recruitment week.
Photo by Calvin Wu

In 2008, Delta Tau Delta celebrated its Sesquicentennial Anniversary by honoring the legacy of its past while simultaneously looking toward an even brighter future. Delta Tau Delta is based on the four fundamental principles of Truth, Courage, Faith and Power.

Delta Tau Delta Fraternity was founded nationally in 1858, making it one of the oldest fraternities in the nation. The Zeta Chi Chapter was chartered at Southern Miss in 1986. In celebrating 150 years of excellence, Delta Tau Delta adopted a new national philanthropy called Bleed Purple, which intends to support medical needs for all Greeks who may suffer from cancer or other ailments.

Even with this new philanthropy, Delta Tau Delta is still committed to their other various life changing public services. For instance, they hold the Cystic Fibrosis Sports Challenge, which takes place every spring to benefit the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation in honor of their first chapter president who suffered from the disease.

Delta Tau Delta strives for life-long learning and is devoted to establishing strong friendships and lasting memories, signifying that the fraternity goes far beyond one's tenure at Southern Miss.

The fraternity prides itself on the diversity of its membership and encourages growth and commitment to campus involvement and philanthropy. Their dedication to both the local community and the university serves as an excellent example of why it's great to be Greek at Southern Miss.

Story Submitted by Delta Tau Delta

Background Photo Submitted by Delta Tau Delta

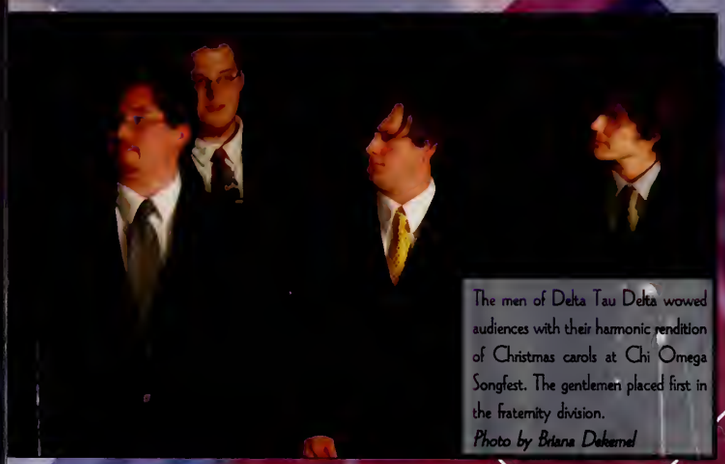


Senior Bentley Anderson and Elizabeth McManus enjoy spending time in the quality company of the men of Delta Tau Delta. *Photo Submitted by Delta Tau Delta*



Bruce Brown and Bentley O'Berry represent the men of Delta Tau Delta at an interest fair prospective Greeks. *Photo by Bettany Payne*

"Truth, Courage, Faith and Power"



The men of Delta Tau Delta wowed audiences with their harmonic rendition of Christmas carols at Chi Omega Songfest. The gentlemen placed first in the fraternity division. *Photo by Briana Dekemel*



Jonathan Lee, Matt Fitzpatrick, Brian Joyce, and David Mora enjoy each others' company no matter the occasion. The men of Delta Tau Delta pride themselves on their unconditional bonds. *Photo Submitted by Delta Tau Delta*

Iota Phi Theta

"Building a Tradition, Not Resting Upon One"

Through dedication and perseverance Iota Phi Theta Fraternity, Inc. has become one of the fastest growing organizations in the National Pan-Hellenic Council. Since its inception on September 19, 1963 the organization has grown by leaps and bounds, chartering chapters across the United States and even in locations such as South Korea.

The work of the Epsilon Psi chapter here at Southern Miss has mirrored that of the national level. Epsilon Psi was chartered on the University of Southern Mississippi campus in August 2005. Since then it has steadily grown and become an integral part of campus life. Though small in size, it is filled with dedicated brothers from diverse backgrounds working for a common cause.

The fraternity has done so by establishing an annual "Brown and Gold Week" filled with activities that cater to entertainment development. Such activities include community service with the Boys and Girls Club, N.E.E.D.S daycare and entertainment such as karaoke competitions and a laser tag tournament at Laser Mania.

"Building a Tradition, Not Resting upon One" is more than just a motto, it's a way of life for the men of Iota Phi Theta Fraternity, Inc.

Story Submitted by Iota Phi Theta

Background Photo Submitted by Iota Phi Theta

"Scholarship,
Leadership,
Citizenship
Fidelity
Brotherhood
among
Men"



The gentlemen of the Epsilon Psi chapter have a proud reputation of excellence and diversity that make it distinct among Southern Miss fraternities.
Photo Submitted by Iota Phi Theta



Members of Iota Phi Theta support their fraternity by showing off their sign with pride at a Halloween get-together.
Photos Submitted by Iota Phi Theta



The gentlemen of Iota Phi theta are a group of men striving to preserve the traditions passed down to them by their founders.
Photo by Brettany Payne

Kappa Alpha

"Dieu et Les Dames"



The men of Kappa Alpha Order celebrate the homecoming of their new members at the completion of bid day.
Photo by Calvin Wu

The Gamma Zeta chapter of Kappa Alpha Order at Southern Miss is a historic part of the Greek system and contributes much in both tradition and all-around excellence.

Kappa Alpha Order is an organization primarily focused on the development of qualities becoming of a gentleman in its membership. As the fraternal motto states, Kappa Alpha lives "For God and the Ladies," which outlines not only the gentlemanly nature of the group, but also its focus on religious values and morality.

Established in 1865 at Washington College, Kappa Alpha is part of the Lexington Triad along with its two brother fraternal groups Sigma Nu and Alpha Tau Omega. Hailing from Lexington, Virginia, these groups were founded to improve their members by establishing in them an air of professionalism and honor transcending the traditional college education.

By instilling the virtues of a gentleman in their members, Kappa Alpha strives to maintain a certain level of class and dependability in its membership. As the spiritual founder of the organization, Robert E. Lee is used as a role model for new members and alumni alike. Military ideals of courage and honor are closely related to the ideals of Kappa Alpha, and these traits show through in all of the organization's on campus activities, ranging from bid day to formals.

Kappa Alpha at Southern Miss holds true to many of the traditions of the national fraternity including Old South, a celebration of the Southern heritage complete with antebellum dresses and military attire. As members of one of the largest fraternities in the nation, the men of Gamma Zeta are committed to increasing membership and continuing to forge a legacy as a pivotal part of Greek Life at Southern Miss.

Story Submitted by Kappa Alpha

Background Photo Submitted by Kappa Alpha



The men of Kappa Alpha Order enjoy a night of gentlemenly bonding at a formal social gathering.
Photo Submitted by Kappa Alpha



The men of Kappa Alpha Order support their Southern Miss Eagles even in the pouring rain.
Photo Submitted by Kappa Alpha

"Excellence is *our* Aim"



The Kappa Alpha Order is no stranger to fun nights of social entertainment. Here the men of Kappa Alpha attend a Pi Beta Phi Christmas party.
Photo Submitted by Kappa Alpha

Kappa Alpha Psi

"Achievement in Every Field"



The gentlemen of the Kappa Iota chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi pose for a group shot before their founders' day program. *Photo by Brettany Payne*

Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. is an international organization founded on the campus of Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana on January 5, 1911. Since its inception, it has trained over 125,000 men for leadership roles in their communities and the attainment of a high degree of excellence in their academic pursuits. With more than 650 alumni and collegiate chapters in the United States and across the world, Kappa Alpha Psi is recognized as a major contributor to the advancement of the African American community.

Kappa Alpha Psi has demonstrated its commitment to community by partnering with St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. The fraternity has adopted the "Sunday of Hope" program for St. Jude to help raise additional funds for the hospital. Kappa Alpha Psi members worked with churches in their community to host a Sunday of Hope one Sunday in the month of January aimed at raising funds for the children battling sickle-cell anemia, cancer, and other catastrophic diseases at St. Jude.

As the fraternity prepares for its Centennial Celebration, the distinguished gentlemen of the Kappa Iota chapter have accepted the fraternal theme established by current Grand Polemarch Dwayne M. Murray, Esq., "Creating Inspiration: A Call to Service." National initiatives supported by the chapter are Prostate Awareness, American Cancer Society, and the American Heart Association.

Story Submitted by Kappa Alpha Psi

Background Photo by Brettany Payne



Six of the newest members of Kappa Alpha Psi pose after particapating in the National Pan-Hellenic Council black history program.
Photo by Brettany Payne



Kappa Alpha Psi members hold tight to their cowls as they enter the room to begin their probate. Ten men were welcomed into the Kappa Iota family.
Photo by Brettany Payne

"To inspire service in the public interest"



Members of Kappa Alpha Psi have fun hanging out and helping the children at the Boys and Girls Club of America. *Photos Submitted by Kappa Alpha Psi*

Kappa Sigma

"Fellowship, Leadership, Scholarship, and Service"



The gentlemen of Kappa Sigma fraternity celebrated their recruitment weeks end by welcoming thier new members to an afternoon of fun.
Photo by Calvin Wu

The Kappa Sigma Fraternity has a long and distinguished history, both as a national fraternity and as an organization on the Southern Miss campus. The Epsilon Nu Chapter of Kappa Sigma was founded at Southern Miss in 1949. Throughout the year, Kappa Sigma holds numerous social functions that serve not only Southern Miss, but the community as well. These include their more famous philanthopy event, "Margaritaville," named after one of their alumni, Jimmy Buffett. "Margaritaville" caps off a week of raising money for the Special Olympics with a baseball game played by Kappa Sigma and another fraternity in the Southern Miss Pete Taylor Park. Other functions organized by Kappa Sigma include their annual South Seas and Drawdown.

Nationally, Kappa Sigma is currently the leader in pledges, philanthropic donations, new initiates, and service hours per year. The four cornerstones of the Kappa Sigma fraternity include fellowship, scholarship, leadership, and service. The men of Kappa Sigma are taught to live by the star and crescent which is a symbol of the fraternity and makes up the official badge. It states, "The Star and Crescent shall not be worn by every man, but only by him who is worthy to wear it."

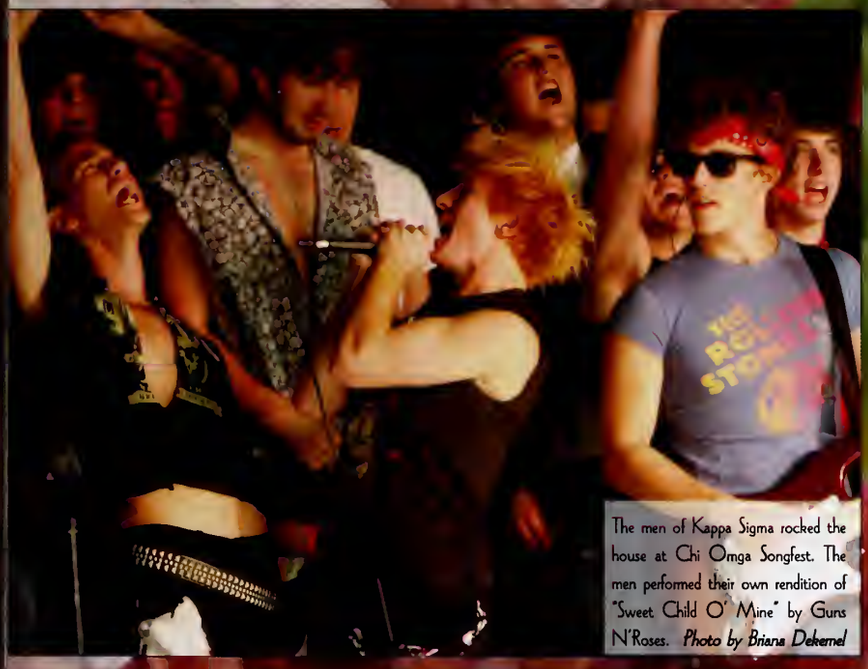
Because of this philosophy, a tightly knit brotherhood, and a base of over 1300 alumni at Southern Miss alone, the men of Kappa Sigma will continue to strive for excellence in all of their future endeavors.

Story Submitted by Kappa Sigma

Background Photo Submitted by Kappa Sigma



The gentlemen of Kappa Sigma are involved in many facets of campus involvement, and football is no exception.
Photo Submitted by Kappa Sigma



The men of Kappa Sigma rocked the house at Chi Omga Songfest. The men performed their own rendition of "Sweet Child O' Mine" by Guns N'Roses. *Photo by Briana Dekemel*



The Kappa Sigma fraternity celebrated their annual South Seas spring party with a pool party, good food, and a fun crowd.
Photo Submitted by Kappa Sigma

"a Man of Zeal, yet Humble"

Omega Psi Phi

"Friendship is Essential to the Soul"



The Nu Eta members of Omega Psi Phi live by the principles of manhood, scholarship, and perseverance.
Photo Submitted by Omega Psi Phi

The Nu Eta chapter of Omega Psi Phi fraternity, Inc., was founded here in May of 1975. It was the first nationally African-American Greek Organization founded at Southern Miss. The notorious charter line "Genesis 31" later provided for the membership of college men with similar ideas to promote the national principles.

In 2000, the resurrection of Nu Eta happened with "Genesis II: The Resurrection of Nu Eta." The members responsible for the fraternity's revival were Tony Dalcour, Thomas Figures, Tabari Rogers, Cedric Scott, and Marlon Mitchell.

Since then, Nu Eta has grown in numbers with the addition of "Four Men of No Remorse" in fall of 2000, "The Last of a Dying Breed" in the spring of 2001, "7 Deadly Sins of Omega" in fall of 2002, "4 Links on a Chain of Corruption" in the spring of 2004, "5 Demons of a Dogmatic Cult" in the spring of 2005, and "4 Sons Serving a Life Sentence" in the spring of 2006.

The Nu Eta Chapter is active in the Hattiesburg community, serving as mentors for the Omega Prep Youth organization and other community service projects. Annual events held by Omega Psi Phi include the Que-Delta week every spring semester, an achievement week program and a talent hunt program every fall semester, as well as a perfect attendance and academic excellence program held at the end of every nine week term for elementary aged students. The Nu Eta Chapter was awarded Undergraduate Chapter of the Year in the state of Mississippi for the 07-08 school year.

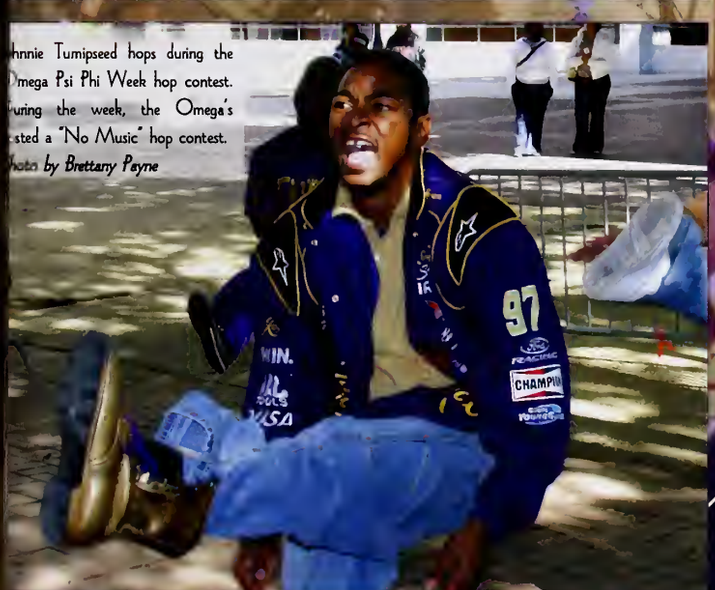
Story Submitted by Omega Psi Phi

Background Photo by Brettany Payne

"Everything *Rises* and *Falls* on Friendship"



Jerwaski Coleman, Shelton Pittmen, Dominic Peterson, and Johnnie Tumipseed, are the newest members of the Nu Eta chapter of Omega Psi Phi.
Photo Submitted by Omega Psi Phi



hnnie Tumipseed hops during the mega Psi Phi Week hop contest. uring the week, the Omega's sted a "No Music" hop contest.
hoto by Brettany Payne



Omega Psi Phi was the first national black greek lettered organization chartered on the campus of Southern Miss.
Photo Submitted by Omega Psi Phi

Phi Beta Sigma

"Culture for Service, Service for Humanity"



The gentlemen of Phi Beta Sigma celebrate Homecoming with their sister sorority Zeta Phi Beta.
Photo by Brettany Payne

Brotherhood, Scholarship, and Service: these are the principles for which Phi Beta Sigma's founders stood. A. Langston Taylor, Leonard F. Morse, and Charles I. Brown were the names of the men who founded this organization. Ever since its inception on January 9, 1914, these men and thousands of others who've followed in their footsteps have made a large impact on the world.

The men of Phi Beta Sigma always strive for brotherhood, not only Sigma men, but men of all backgrounds, nationalities, colors, and beliefs. In striving for scholarship, they've maintained academic success on all levels. Service is what they believe to be the most important, and to that end the Sigmas participate in the March of Dimes and programs such as Sigmas Against Teen-Age Pregnancy (SATAP).

Since the spring of 1976, the "Thunderous" Theta Eta chapter has always strived for goals far beyond these principles. One of the group's largest philanthropy events is the annual "Sleep Out for the Homeless." This event has raised thousands of dollars for Christian Services.

The Theta Eta chapter also held numerous other programs including a rally for the Jena 6. The Sigmas also maintain a healthy relationship with their sorors of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. and other chapters of Phi Beta Sigma in the state of Mississippi.

With the possession of numerous awards, Phi Beta Sigma stands tall and proud at Southern Miss. This chapter strives to live up to the name of its founders: the 12 Sticks of Sigma Dynamite.

Story Submitted by Phi Beta Sigma

Background Photo by Brettany Payne



LaCharles Green hands flowers to freshmen Brettany Payne. Brettany is the winner of the First Annual Miss Phi Beta Sigma pageant hosted by the Theta Eta chapter.
Photo Submitted by Phi Beta Sigma



Senior football player Chaz Richards strikes a pose, as he holds his stick and shows off his fraternity sign.
Photo by Brettany Payne

"Brotherhood, Scholarship, Service"



These thunderous Theta Eta members proudly display their Sigma sign.
Photo by Brettany Payne



The men of Phi Beta Sigma perform their "I love New York" step routine at the Southern Miss annual step show.
Photo Submitted by Phi Beta Sigma

Phi Kappa Tau

"Success is Never Coasting"



The men of Phi Kappa Tau fraternity were proud to welcome their new members on bid day. Phi Tau was the first fraternity established on Southern Miss campus.
Photo by Calvin Wu

Phi Kappa Tau was the first national fraternity to come to the campus of Southern Miss and the first to build a house, creating fraternity row. Phi Tau has been a part of the campus tradition for decades and is continuing to add to the rich tradition which characterizes Southern Miss.

"Chip Shot" is a newly founded philanthropy for Phi Tau. It is held every Spring semester, and Spring 2008 will be the third annual "Chip Shot." Phi Kappa Tau selects a different charity each year to donate the proceeds raised.

"Chip Shot" has expanded to include a Karoake Night for participating sororities and is sponsored by almost every Greek organization as well as local businesses. The Greek winner of the "Chip Shot" money drop and Karaoke Night has $500 donated to their national philanthropy. In the Spring of 2007 Phi Tau was proud to support The Make a Wish Foundation as well as Paul Newman's Hole in the Wall Gang.

"Chip Shot" is a very unique philanthropy. The actual event is held in the evening at the Phi Kappa Tau house. Live entertainment and food are included in the evening which provides for a fun philanthropic atmoshphere.

Story Submitted by Phi Kappa Tau

Background Photo by Calvin Wu



Phi Kappa Tau members enjoy fun nights of entertainment within their own home in the company of each other and close friends.
Photo by Calvin Wu



The men of Phi Kappa Tau go all out for social and philanthropic events.
Photo Submitted by Phi Kappa Tau

"Mark of Distinction"



Will Thames sings a melody in remembrance of a fallen Phi Kappa Tau brother at Chi Omega Songfest.
Photo by Christopher Bostick

Pi Kappa Alpha

"The Most, Best Men"



The Delta Mu chapter of Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity welcomed their new members on bid day with a wild pool party. *Photo by Calvin Wu*

Since their founding in 1868, Pi Kappa Alpha has become a leading organization in fostering friendship, brotherhood, and personal development among all 201 chapters and developing colonies.

The Delta Mu chapter of Pi Kappa Alpha was founded on December 10, 1949 at the University of Southern Mississippi. Since then, the men of Pi Kappa Alpha have strived to be "true gentlemen": scholars, athletes, and leaders both on campus and within the community.

Each year, Pi Kappa Alpha hosts a $10,000 drawdown event to raise money for a worthy cause. PowderPuff, a flag football tournament, is also held each year to raise money for the Humane Society. Pi Kappa Alpha also produces a calendar each year, highlighting some of Southern Miss' most beautiful co-eds.

Pi Kappa Alpha encourages leadership through retreats and seminars, national leadership summits and on-campu leadership positions. The men of Pike als know how to have a good time hosting socia events each year such as Pikefest, Fireman Ball, and Pi Kappa Alphatraz.

From philanthropy and leadership t social events, Pike represents the best o fraternity life.

Story Submitted by Pi Kappa Alph

Background Photo Submitted by Pi Kappa Alp



Pi Kappa Alpha is made of a group of men bound together by brotherhood.
Photo Submitted by Pi Kappa Alpha



The men of Pi Kappa Alpha performed at Chi Omega Songfest lead by Darren McCaleb.
Photo by Briana Dekemel

"Scholars, Leaders, Athletes, Gentlemen"



The men of Pi Kappa Alpha host multiple parites and social events throughout the year.
Photo Submitted by Pi Kappa Alpha

Pi Kappa Phi

"Leaders by Choice"

Pi Kappa Phi are men of C.L.A.S.S.: Character. Leadership. Academics. Sportsmanship. Service.

The Theta Alpha chapter was chartered in April of 1999 and has since become one of the top Greek letter organizations on campus. Members have continuously attained positions of leadership both within the Greek community and on campus. Pi Kappa Phi also consistently earns one of the highest GPAs as a Greek organization, with the highest fraternity GPA for the fall semester while at the same time boasting one of the largest memberships for an IFC fraternity.

Pi Kappa Phi is well represented in many organizations on campus, including Southern Style, Student Government Association, the Printz, University Activities Council, the Interfraternity Council, Eagle Connection, and the Southerner. By recruiting Presidential, Leadership, and Luckyday Scholars with diverse interests and backgrounds, Pi Kappa Phi is able to build a well-rounded chapter that strives to improve the lives and skills of both its members and its community.

Pi Kappa Phi is the only Greek organization to both found and maintain their own national philanthropy–PUSH America–which promotes awareness of, raises funds for, and serves children and adults with disabilities. The main avenue of contribution is the Journey of Hope, a cross-country bike ride from San Francisco to Washington, D.C. The Theta Alpha chapter routinely has at least one member participate every summer. This chapter also raises awareness and thousands of dollars through their annual No Boundaries Week, which culminates in the Pi Kapp Classic basketball game.

By emphasizing brotherhood above all else, Pi Kappa Phi continues to turn students into leaders, and men into men of class and men of influence.

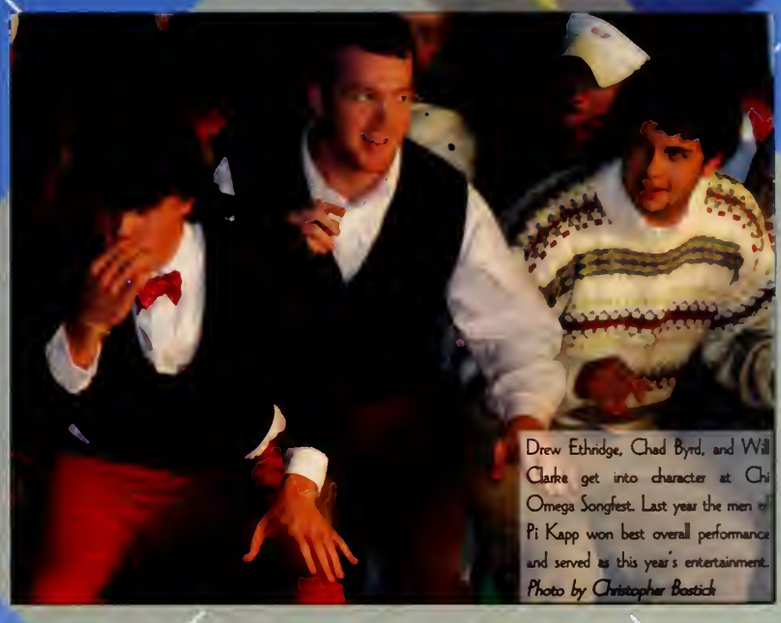
Story by Jaime McKercher

Background Photo by Eric Huckabee





Brittain Heindl, Reed Hotard, and Jake Meek take time to play with the children of their Habitat for Humanity projects. Each year the men of Pi Kappa Phi volunteer to help build homes for families in need.
Photo by Eric Huckabee



Drew Ethridge, Chad Byrd, and Will Clarke get into character at Chi Omega Songfest. Last year the men of Pi Kapp won best overall performance and served as this year's entertainment.
Photo by Christopher Bostick



The gentlemen of Pi Kappa Phi fraternity celebrate the end of recruitment week and welcome the new associates of their fraternity.
Photo Submitted by Pi Kappa Phi

Sigma Alpha Epsilon

"The True Gentlemen"



The men of Sigma Alpha Epsilon welcome their new members into their fraternity brotherhood at the conclusion of formal rush.
Photo by Calvin Wu

Founded in Tuscaloosa, Alabama in 1856, Sigma Alpha Epsilon was the first national fraternity founded in the antebellum South. Over a century and a half later, SAE is now North America's largest social fraternity with nearly 300,000 initiated members. Its current structure includes more than 8,200 undergraduates at more than 225 chapters in 48 states and Canada. Following graduation, all members are encouraged to affiliate as active members in one of the 270 alumni associations.

Acting on the need for deep and lasting friendships, SAE's eight founding fathers bonded together to create their unique and common identity in Sigma Alpha Epsilon. Today, SAE strives to create, enhance, and maintain that group identity. The mission of Sigma Alpha Epsilon is to promote the highest standards of friendship, scholarship, and service for members based upon the ideals set fourth by the founders.

Of the many programs a fraternity chapter may implement, those of Sigma Alpha Epsilon are above the rest. SAE was the first fraternity to establish a national headquarters, a national leadership school, a national Men's Health Issues Committee, and a career-development program entitled the Leading Edge. In addition, members can communicate through the fraternity's official magazine, The Record, which plays a fundamental role in shaping policies, informing constituents, and evoking pride among members.

In 1927, the Sigma Alpha Epsilon Foundation was established to create programs that promote the highest ideals of academic and personal development. The existing programs include numerous scholarships, a student-loan program, and an international leadership school. The programs are intended to help the undergraduate better himself mentally, emotionally, and physically.

Here at Southern Miss, the Mississippi Sigma chapter of SAE is no exception. In addition to upholding all national standards, Mississippi Sigma is a leading example in regards to service commitments. Every fall, the organization teams up with Hattiesburg Parks and Recreational Department for the annual ZooBoo event, a program that offers a safe alternative to trick-or-treating and is fun for the entire family.

In the Spring, Mississippi Sigma holds a charitable football game benefiting the Hattiesburg Civitan Camp for the mentally handicapped. Furthermore, the organization participates in the True Gentlemen's National Day of Service, an event geared toward community beautification.

Among the fraternities that continue to flourish, the Mississippi Sigma chapter of Sigma Alpha Epsilon may be counted among the leaders.

Story Submitted by
Sigma Alpha Epsilon

Background Photo Submitted by Sigma Alpha Epsilon



Alex Geruner and Westley Mutziger stand in the London Eye whilel visiting the UK.
Photo Submitted by Sigma Alpha Epsilon



The men of Sigma Alpha Epsilon enjoy tailgating at the District before heading to the game to support the Southern Miss Golden Eagles.
Photo Submitted by Sigma Alpha Epsilon



Freshman Landon Carmean performed a solo during Chi Omega Songfest. The men of SAE placed in the top three of the competition.
Photo by Briana Dekemel

"Friendship, *Scholarship,* Service"

Sigma Chi

"In Hoc Signo Vinces"



The men of Sigma Chi welcomed their new members to a slip and slide party at the end of recruitment week.
Photo by Calvin Wu

The Sigma Chi Fraternity was founded in 1855 and is still strong and alive today. The men of Sigma Chi at Southern Miss have continued to uphold the traditions and beliefs that were set in place almost 150 years ago. Still a young chapter, the Theta Delta Chapter of Sigma Chi continues to excel in every aspect of Greek Life at Southern Miss. The fraternity is always ahead of the game when it comes to recruitment, grades, athletics, and campus involvement.

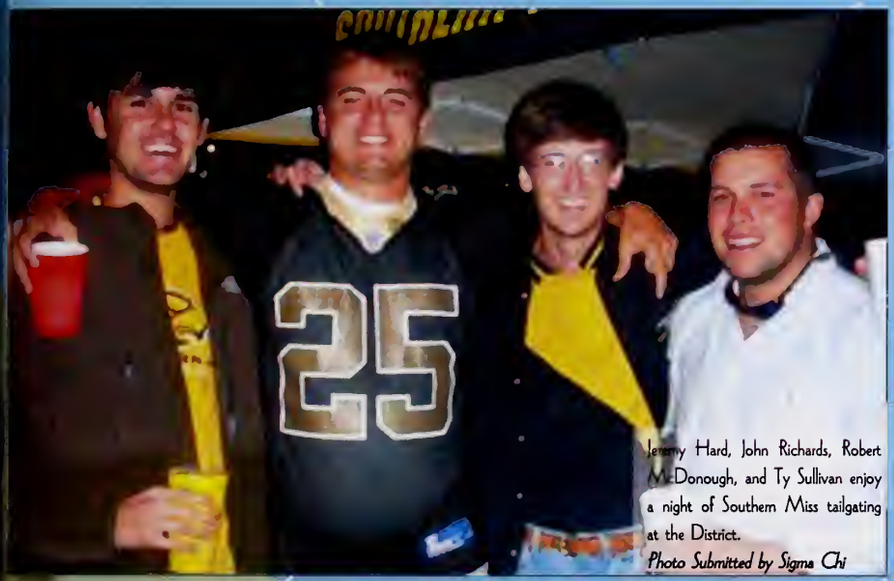
The Theta Delta chapter is always willing to help those in need. Their annual philanthropy "Derby Days" raises thousands of dollars each year, which is donated to the Children's Miracle Network. It is also a time of fun and excitement for all the sororities and fraternities that participate.

The Sigma Chis are led by Consul Andrew Fox, Vice President Laike Todd, and Annotator Jonathan Kennedy. Notable officers are Social Chair Matt Kenney, Recruitment Chair Tommy Maestri, Alumni Chair Tyler Floyd, Derby Chair Brian Anderson, Tribune Jeremy Hard, and Historian Captain Luke Matthews. Through the efforts of Mr. Ryan Jackson, the house remains spotless and intact on a daily basis. Also, if not for the effort of Brian Anderson and his parents, tailgating in the district before the football game would not include the food and refreshments they all enjoy so much.

The Theta Delta chapter of Sigma Chi may be fairly young, but their members continue to be a force on campus.

Story Submitted by Sigma Chi

Background Photo Submitted by Sigma Chi



Jeremy Hard, John Richards, Robert McDonough, and Ty Sullivan enjoy a night of Southern Miss tailgating at the District.
Photo Submitted by Sigma Chi



Embracing their love of their fraternity the men of Sigma Chi hold their badge and its meaning close at heart.
Photo Submitted by Sigma Chi



led the men of the 2007 class in singing "Rudolf the Nose Reindeer" at Chi Omega
Photo by Briana Dehennel

"an obligation, necessity, introduction, lesson, influence, opportunity, investment, and pleasure."



The men of Sigma Chi take a brotherhood retreat to the beach. They enjoy each others' company on vacations and outings.
Photo Submitted by Sigma Chi

Sigma Phi Epsilon

"Building Balanced Leaders for the World's Communities"



The gentlemen of Sigma Phi Epsilson and little sisters greet their new members to a roll in the mud pit.
Photo by Calvin Wu

The Mississippi Gamma chapter of Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity, or Sig Ep, has continued to be a force in all aspects of student activities and the Greek community at the University of Southern Mississippi.

This chapter has been growing since its founding in 1953, spawning from the first chapter founded in 1901 in Richmond, Virginia. Sigma Phi Epsilon has participated in multiple philanthropies, as well as winning various ones, such as Delta Gamma Anchorsplash, Kappa Alpha Theta's Kicks for Casa, and Phi Mu's Hoop-a-palooza.

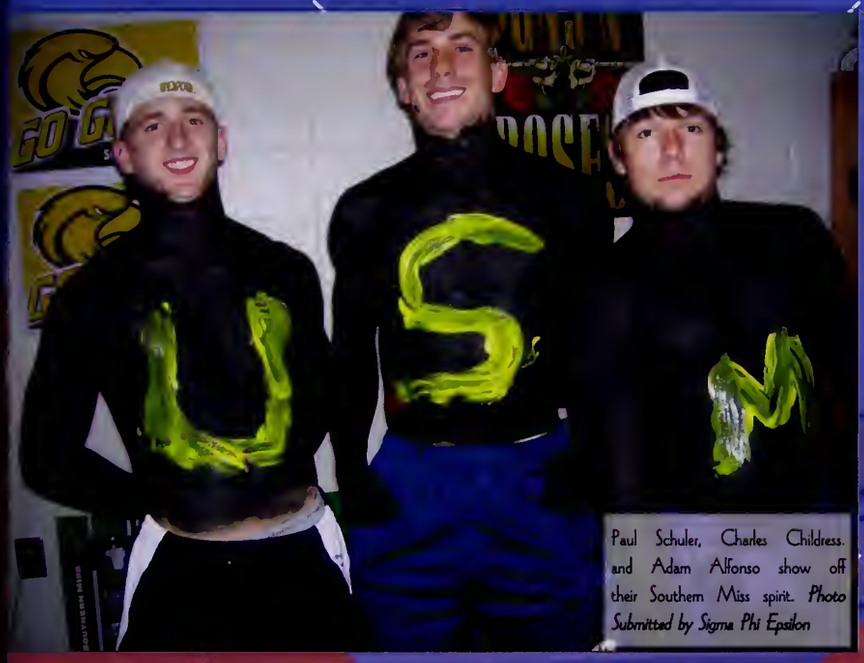
The chapter has also claimed victory in many intramurals, as it has continued its placement in the top three of Greek sports for many consecutive years. Sig Ep also hosts its annual philanthropy, the Chili Cookoff, which raises a great deal of money that benefits the Youth Aids foundation. Sig Ep keeps things fun through social functions, such as their annual Grinch Party, spring formal, and swaps with various sororities.

A major aspect of Sigma Phi Epsilon is involvement in many student organizations on campus, including the following: Student Government Association, Southern Style, GEWW Crew, Eagle Connection, honor societies, and many more.

Story Submitted by Sigma Phi Epsilon

Background Photo Submitted by Sigma Phi Epsilon





Paul Schuler, Charles Childress, and Adam Alfonso show off their Southern Miss spirit. *Photo Submitted by Sigma Phi Epsilon*



The men of Sig Ep have fun going all out for swaps and date parties. *Photo Submitted by Sigma Phi Epsilon*



The men enjoy a night out together at date parties and swaps. The 2007 pledge class gathered at the Pi Beta Phi date party. *Photo Submitted by Sigma Phi Epsilon*



The gentlemen of Sigma Phi Epsilon celebrate the induction of new Theta Men at the Kappa Alpha Theta date party. *Photo Submitted by Sigma Phi Epsilon*

"Sound mind, Sound body"

people & distinctions


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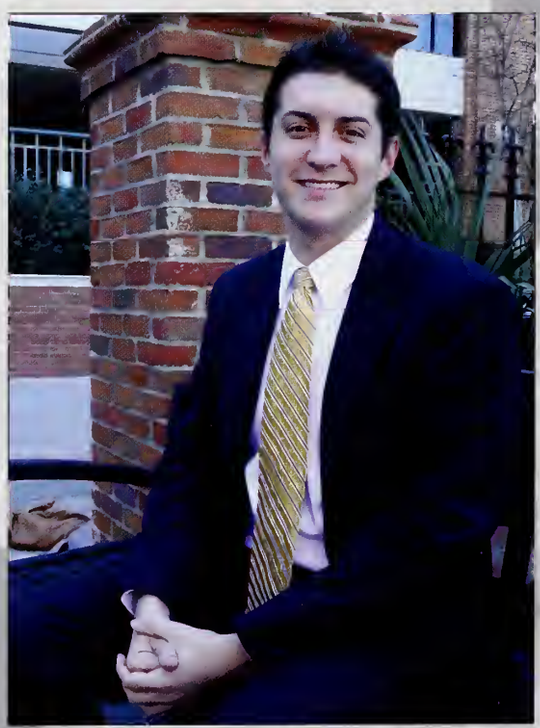
Making their Mark

student government association executive officers



President: Vince Fabra

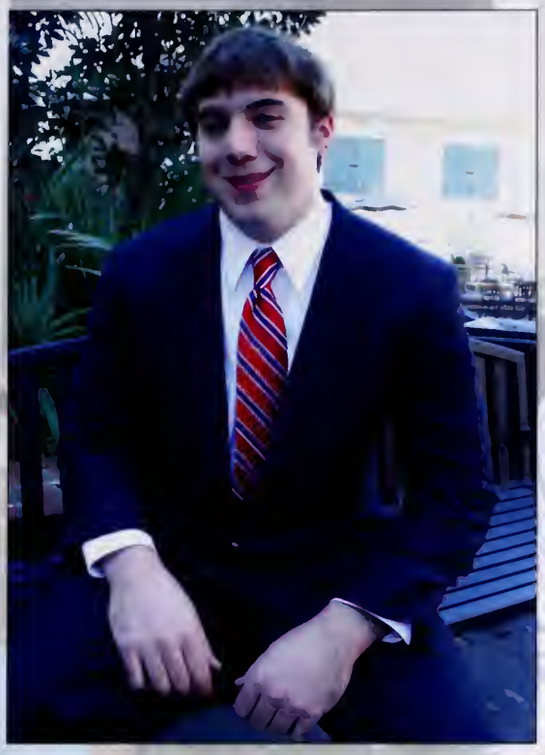
Vincent Fabra, a speech communications major from Metairie, Louisiana, has been involved in SGA since his first year at Southern Miss, and during this time has helped pave the way for major changes that the university has undergone. His offices within SGA have included president of freshman associates, executive director of student programming, chief of staff, and now SGA president. In addition to his work with SGA, Fabra is a member of the Pi Kappa Phi fraternity and Southern Style '06.



Vice President: Ronnie Hebert

Ronnie Herbert, a leadership scholar and member of the University Academic Council, has many achievements that extend outside of Student Government Association. Ronnie is also the Recruitment Chair of the Alpha Tau Omega fraternity, was an executive director of Golden Eagle Welcome Week, was a member of Southern Style '06, and is a member of Eagle Connection.

All Photos by Elizabeth Maloy



Treasurer: Joe Sabin

Joe Sabin, a finance and sports administration double major from Mandeville, Louisiana, has been involved in many organizations on campus including honors societies such as Alpha Lambda Delta, Order of Omega and Golden Key International. In addition to these high profile accomplishments, Sabin is the Treasurer of Alpha Tau Omega fraternity and is involved in Eagle Connection.

Attorney General: Whit Meeks

Whit Meeks, a history and spanish double major from Pensacola, Florida, took the initiative in his early years at the university to excel not only academically, but also in campus leadership. Meeks has won a host of honors during his time at Southern Miss including 2004-2005 Most Outstanding Freshman Male and 2006-2007 Most Outstanding SGA Judicial Board Member. In addition to these awards, Meeks has stayed active in campus organizations such as Alpha Tau Omega. Meeks has also been inducted into the honor societies Phi Alpha Theta, Omicron Delta Kappa, and Alpha Lambda Delta.





Election Commisioner: Omari Pittman

Omari Pittman, a sports medicine and advertisement major from Jackson, Mississippi, served as the SGA election commisioner this year. In addition to being active in the Student Government Association, Omari is a member of the Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity. He is also involved in the Afro-American Student Organization, Freshman Associates as an advisor, Eagle Connection, and Southern Style '07.

Mr. and Miss Southern Miss

representing excellence





All Photos by Eric Hu



Ashley Cangelosi

Ashley Elizabeth Cangelosi, daughter of Dino and Elizabeth Cangelosi, is a speech communication major from Mandeville, Louisiana. Ashley is a leadership scholar and was chosen as an outstanding freshman female in 2005, and has been stunning Southern Miss with her involvement ever since. She is a member of Chi Omega sorority, where she served as vice president. Ashley was also a part of the Southern Style 2006 team. Ashley is involved in the Student Government Association, where she served as Chief of Staff. She served as president of The Legacy and president of the Union Advisory Board.

When asked about the experience, Cangelosi said, "It was such an honor and a privilege to represent the student body. To be able to be so involved with Homecoming and support our team from the sidelines was amazing."

Keith Lampkin

Keith Donnell Lampkin, son of Geraldine Lampkin and Larry Pelison, is a political science major from Bentonia, Mississippi. Keith has been very active in Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., serving as both treasurer and vice president. He also serves as the president of the Future Black Law Students Association. Keith has been involved in the Student Government Association Senate, the University Activities Council, Residence Hall Association, E.L.I.T.E. and the Luckyday Leadership Team. He was chosen as the National Pan-Hellenic Frater of the Year for 2007-2008.

"As Mr. Southern Miss, I have had the chance to engulf myself even more with the rich history of the university and been able to become more of a role model to my peers," Lampkin said. "I cannot express how much of an honor it has been to participate in this incredible tradition."



Best Citizens

embodying the ideal student





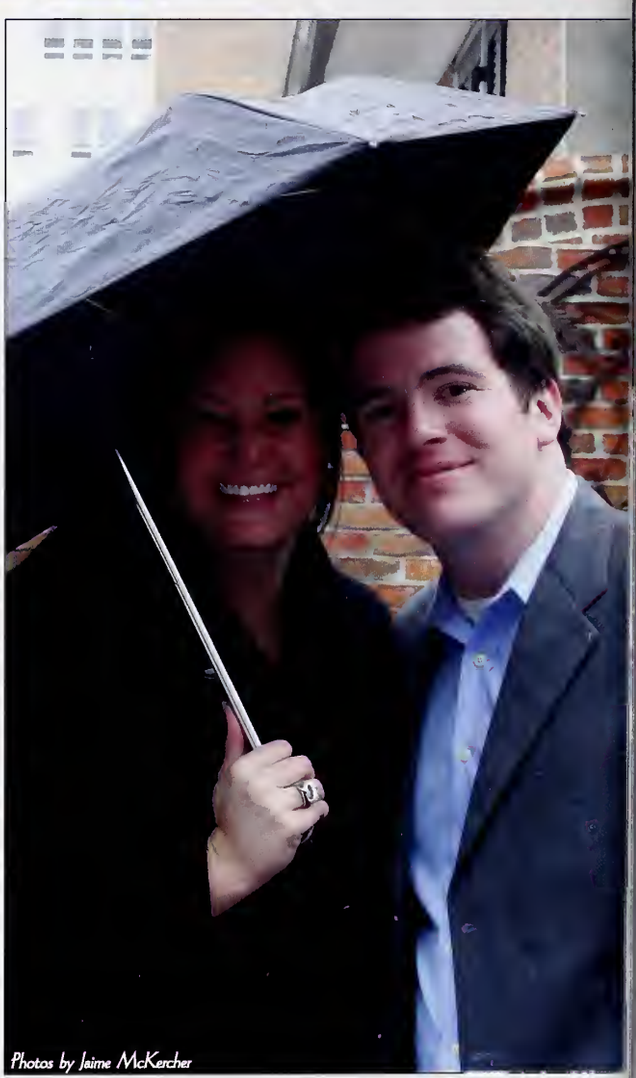
Jeanette Johnson

Jeannette Johnson is a speech communication major from Destrehan, Louisiana. She is a member of Phi Mu sorority. Jeannette was a member of Southern Style in 2006 and served as an executive director for GEWW in 2007. She has been very involved in the SGA, serving as the election commissioner, Director of Homecoming, and Freshman Associates advisor. She was also chosen as the Most Outstanding Cabinet Member. Jeanette has also served as president and vice president of the Speech Communication Association.

Vincent Fabra

Vincent Fabra, a speech communication major from Metairie, Louisiana, has been involved in SGA since his first year at Southern Miss, and during this time has helped pave the way for many major changes the university has undergone. His offices within SGA have included President of Freshman Associates, Executive Director of Student Programming, chief of staff, and president. Vince is also a member of the Pi Kappa Phi fraternity and was a member of Southern Style in 2006.





Photos by Jaime McKercher

Phi Kappa Phi Silver Bowl

recognizing academic achievement



Photos Submitted by Photo Services

Kelly Martin is the recipient of this year's Phi Kappa Phi Silver Bowl. This award is given to the graduating senior with the highest GPA in the most credit hours. Kelly is an athletic training major from Progress, Mississippi. He is the son of Tony and Tammy Martin and is married to Codie Martin. Kelly was the recipient of the Andy Bryan Memorial Scholarship from the Mississippi Athletic Trainer's Association in 2007-2008. He also received the Dave Freeman Athletic Training Scholarship and is an Academic Excellence Scholar. He has been on the President's list since the Fall of 2004, maintaining a 4.0 grade point average for his entire collegiate career. Kelly is a member of the Golden Key National Honor Society and Phi Kappa Delta Honor Society. He is also a member of the Sports Medicine Association.



HALL OF



ASHLEY CANGELOSI



Ashley Cangelosi is a speech communicatior major from Mandeville, Louisiana and is the daughter of Dino and Elizabeth Cangelosi Ashley was recognized as an outstanding freshman in 2005 and was part of Southern Style in 2006. She is also a Leadership scholar. Ashley served as president of The Legacy and is the president of the Union Advisory Board. She is a member of the Student Government Association, serving as chief of staff, and Chi Omega sorority where she served as vice-president. Ashley plans to work as a student affairs professiona at an institution of higher learning afte graduation.

Leslie Gaddis, daughter of Dennis and Melanie Reed and Keith Gaddis, is a microbiology major from Meridian, Mississippi. Leslie is a Presidential scholar and maintained a 4.0 GPA throughout her college career. She is involved with the Catholic Student Association as a member of the praise band, Roots & Shoots environmental awareness organization, University Activities Council and Phi Kappa Phi honor society. Leslie represents the university as a member of Eagle Connection and as an Honors College Ambassador. After graduation, she plans to attend pharmacy school.



LESLIE GADDIS



Fame

leaving behind a legacy



Ronnie Hebert, Jr.



Ronald Hebert, Jr., a psychology major from Mandeville, Louisiana, is the son of Ronnie and Rhonda Hebert. He was chosen as an outstanding freshman in 2005 and is a Leadership Scholar and Leadership Ambassador. Ronnie was a member of Southern Style in 2006 and served as an Executuve Director for GEWW in 2007. He also served as the vice-president of the Student Government Association. Ronnie is a member of Alpha Tau Omega fraternity, Omicron Delta Kappa honor society and the Union Advisory Board. After graduation, he plans to pursue a career in higher education administration.





Crescan Hughes, son of Carol Beck and the late Joe Hughes, is a forensics major from Grenada, Mississippi. He is a member of the honors college, Omicron Delta Kappa honor society and is both a McNair and a Luckyday scholar. Crescan served as president of the National Pan-Hellenic Council and is a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. He served as a member of the GEWW Crew for two years and is active in Men of Excellence and the Afro-American Student Organization. After graduation, Crescan plans to attain a Ph.D. in forensics and work in forensic investigation.

Cresean Hughes

HALL OF



JAIME MCKERCHER



Theodore James McKercher, a political science and philosophy double major from Vicksburg, Mississippi, is the son of Dave and Janice McKercher. He is a Leadership scholar and member of the Honors College and Omicron Delta Kappa honor society. Jaime was a member of Southern Style in 2007 and serves as an Honors College Ambassador and as a member of Eagle Connection. Jaime is also the Executive Editor of *The Southerner* and is a member of Pi Kappa Phi fraternity where he served as Risk Management chair and on their Standards Board. He plans to attend law school after graduation.

Owen Parker, son of Paul and Lois Parker, is a social work major from Hattiesburg, Mississippi. He is a Leadership scholar and was recognized as an outstanding freshman in 2005. He serves as an assistant hall director through the Department of Residence Life and is a member of the National Residence Hall Honorary. Owen is a member of The Pride of Mississippi, Symphonic Winds Ensemble and the Trumpet Ensemble. He is also the president of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia. Owen plans to pursue a master's degree in social work after graduation.



OWEN PARKER



Fame

leaving behind a legacy



Beth Richardson



Elizabeth Richardson is the daughter of Sam and Susan Richardson of Vancleave, Mississippi and is a mathematics major. Beth is a Luckyday scholar and is a member of Lambda Sigma leadership honor society and Alpha Lambda Delta honor society. She was a member of Southern Style in 2006 and has served on the GEWW Crew. Beth is a member of Kappa Delta sorority where she served as president. She is a member of the Student Government Association, Greek Seekers and The Legacy. After graduation, Beth plans on attending graduate school for college student personnel to pursue a career as a student affairs professional.





Hilliary Walters, daughter of Joseph and Vicki Walters, is a speech-language pathology major from Ellisville, Mississippi. She is a member of the Honors College, where she serves as an ambassador. Hilliary is also a member of Eagle Connection and Omicron Delta Kappa honor society. Hilliary volunteers with the Mississippi Organ Recovery Agency and the DuBard School for Language Disorders. Hilliary was also chosen as the H.E.A.D.W.A.E. Outstanding Student Honoree. After graduation, Hilliary plans to attend graduate school for speech-language pathology and pursue a career in a clinical setting.

Hilliary Walters



Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities

the leaders of southern miss

Photo by Jaime McKercher



Kathryn Elizabeth Anthony, daughter of Darrell and Debbie Anthony, is a speech communications major from Mobile, Alabama. Katie was a member of Southern Style in 2007 and is a member of Delta Gamma sorority. She is also involved in the Baptist Student Union, Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society, Omicron Delta Kappa, Lambda Sigma and Alpha Lambda Delta.



Brittany Nicole Bates, daughter of Freddie and Josie Bates, is a psychology major from Natchez, Mississippi. Brittany was part of the McNair Scholars Program, a Luckyday scholar, and she received the Black Acheivement Award from the Afro-American Student Organization. She is also a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.



Meredith Kay Bucher, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Louis B. Bucher, Jr., is a speech pathology major from New Orleans, Louisiana. Meredith is a vice presidential scholar. Meredith is a member of Delta Delta Delta sorority where she served as president. Meredith is also a member of Order of Omega, Lambda Sigma, and Freshmen Leadership Council.



Ashley Elizabeth Barrient, daughter of Dirk and Stacie Barrient, is a nutrition and dietetics major from Biloxi, Mississippi. Ashley is a member of Chi Omega sorority and was a cheerleader. Ashley is also involved in Omicron Delta Kappa, Golden Key Honor Society, Student Dietetic Association and Alpha Lambda Delta, as well as being a leadership scholar.



Eric C. Brundidge, son of Marvin and Linda Brundidge, is a sports administration major from Biloxi, Mississippi. Eric is a leadership scholar and a member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. where he served as vice president. Eric also served as the president of the National PanHellenic Council, as well as being involved in Greek Seekers and Order of Omega.



Ashley Elizabeth Cangelosi, daughter of Dino and Elizabeth Cangelosi, is a speech communications major from Mandeville, Louisiana. Ashley was Miss Southern Miss in 2007 and a member of Southern Style in 2006. Ashley is also a member of Chi Omega sorority where she served as vice president. She has also been heavily involved in the SGA for four years.



Bradley Scott Charlesworth, son of Dennis and Janice Charlesworth, is a public relations major from Montgomery, Alabama. Bradley is a member of Pi Kappa Phi fraternity, where he served as vice president. He served on the Intrafraternity Council for two years as V. P. of Public Relations and V. P. of Scholarship. Bradley is also involved in the Student Government Association.



Takymmea Cheyvhon Clayton, daughter of Cheyenne Trussell and Terry Clayton, is a psychology major from Meridian, Mississippi. She is a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. and served as President. She was National Pan-Hellenic treasurer and a resident assistant. She was recognized in 2007 as the National NPHC Soror of the year.



Kristin Nichole Cyprian, daughter of Greg and Denise Cyprian, is a broadcast journalism major from Mobile, Alabama. She was a member of Southern Style in 2006. She is active in the NAACP, Student Government Association, and the Student Broadcasters Association. Nichole received the AASO Black Achievement Award and served as a GEWW Executive Director.



Joseph Lynn Emfinger, son of Dalton and Rebecca Emfinger, is a chemistry and mathematics major from Meadville, Mississippi. He was a member of the Pride of Mississippi, Mathematical Association of America, the American Chemical Society Student Affiliates, and is a presidential scholar. He has worked for The Student Printz, serving as a writer and sports editor.



Leslie Claire Gaddis, daughter of Dennis and Melanie Reed and Keith Gaddis, is a microbiology major from Meridian, Mississippi. She is a member of the honors college and is a presidential scholar. Leslie is active in the Catholic Student Association, UAC, and Eagle Connection. She received the Ellender microbiology award and was the top presidential scholar in 2007.



Heather Rose Grush, daughter of Louis and Carey Grush, is a nursing major from Slidell, Louisiana. She has served as a resident assistant for the past three years and is a member of the Resident Assistant Advisory Board, serving as secretary and president. Heather is also a College of Health Ambassador and a member of Alpha Delta Pi sorority.



Adrian Cody Clark, daughter of Tena Clark, is a biological sciences major from Valencia, California. She is a leadership scholar and a member of the Order of Omega honor society. Cody is active in the Student Government Association. She is a member of Phi Mu sorority where she served as vice president, as well as being a member of Southern Style in 2007.



Staci Margaret Cochran, daughter of Edward and SueEllen Codding, is a business management major from McComb, Mississippi. She is a leadership scholar and received the Randy Luck Scholarship for two consecutive years. Staci is a member of Chi Omega sorority and was recognized as one of 5 members nationally to receive the Elizabeth Carmichael Orman Award.



Amy Renae Ealy, daughter of Alexander and Willie Ealy, is a social work major from Morton, Mississippi. She serves as a College of Health Ambassador and is president of the organization. Amy is vice president of the Resident Assistant Advisory Board. She is also active in the Afro-American Student Organization Gospel Choir, and Phi Kappa Phi honor society.



Melissa Nicole Freyder, daughter of Gerald and Karen Freyder, is a biology and pre-optometry major from Kenner, Louisiana. She is a member of Phi Mu sorority. Melissa also represents the university by being a member of Eagle Connection and working for the Office of Admissions. She is also a member of Order of Omega and Greek Seekers.



Tara Michelle Gremillion, daughter of Keith and Janet Gremillion, is a public relations major from Matairie, Louisiana. She is a vice-presidential scholar and member of Kappa Tau Alpha honor society. Tara is active in Phi Mu sorority and was the president of Order of Omega. She was a member of Southern Style in 2007 and served on the College Panhellenic Council.



Lora Elizabeth Guess, daughter of Betty Sue Mangum, is a speech communications major from Mendenhall, Mississippi. She is a Leadership Ambassador and serves on The Legacy board. Beth served as the president of Eagle Connection, and is also a member of Kappa Delta sorority where she served as the vice president of new member education and as philanthropy chair.



Christopher Daniel Hare, son of Deborah Holt, is a history and political science major from Long Beach, Mississippi. He is a member of the Student Government Association and the Honors Student Association. Christopher was selected as the university's institutional candidate for the Marshall Scholarship and is a member of Omicron Delta Kappa.



Kelly Ann Hembree, daughter of Paul and Marie Hembree, is a speech pathology major from Pascagoula, Mississippi. Kelly is invovled in the SGA and is an ambassador for the College of Health. She is also a member of the Legacy Board. Kelly is also involved in Eagle Connection, Student Speech and Hearing Association, Alpha Lambda Delta and Lambda Sigma.



Cresean Hughes, son of Carol Beck and the late Joe Hughes, is a forensics major from Grenada, Mississippi. He is a member of Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity, Inc. and served as president of the organization. Cresean is a Luckyday Scholar and is also a member of the Afro-American Student Organization, the National Pan-Hellenic Council and the Student Government Association.



Franklin Michael McCool, son of Mike and Barbara McCool, is a history major from Brandon, Mississippi. He is a member of the Pre-Law society, Phi Alpha Theta, and Greek Seekers. Frank is a member of Phi Kappa Tau and served as president in 2007. Frank is also a member of Gamma Beta Phi honor society and Order of Omega honor society.



Theodore James McKercher, son of Dave and Janice McKercher, is a political science and philosophy double major from Vicksburg, Mississippi. He is a member of the honors college and Omicron Delta Kappa honor society. Jaime is a member of Pi Kappa Phi fraternity, Eagle Connection, Southern Style in 2007 and is the executive editor of *The Southerner*.



David Calvin Meigs, son of Jeff and Jerri Meigs, is a speech communication major from Claremore, Oklahoma. He was a member of Southern Style in 2007. David is a member of Pi Kappa Phi fraternity, Campus Crusade for Christ and the Inter-fraternity Council. He served as Attorney General of the SGA in 2006-2007. David is also a member of Order of Omega.



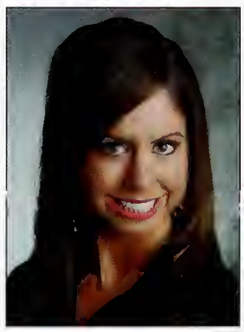
Ronald Dudley Hebert, Jr., son of Ronnie and Rhonda Hebert, is a psychology major from Mandeville, Louisiana. Ronnie is a leadership scholar and was selected as outstanding freshman. He is a member of Alpha Tau Omega fraternity, Eagle Connection and was the vice president of the Student Government Association. He was a member of Southern Style in 2006.



Seth Reynolds Hester, son of Robert and Marsha Hester, is a finance and banking major from Hattiesburg, Mississippi. He was a member of Southern Style in 2006. Seth is a member of Sigma Chi fraternity and was vice-president of administrative affairs for the Inter-fraternity council in 2006 and president in 2007. Seth is also a member of Order of Omega and Beta Gamma Sigma.



Jeannette Suzanne Johnson, daughter of Bill and Sue Johnson, is a speech communication major from Destrehan, Louisiana. She is a member of Phi Mu sorority. Jeannette was a member of Southern Style in 2006 and served as the SGA election commissioner, Director of Homecoming and Freshman Associates advisor.



Carlie Dale McCrary, daughter of Mike and Carol McCrary, is a broadcast journalism major from Hattiesburg, Mississippi. Carlie is a member of Kappa Delta sorority where she served as secretary. She was also a member of the SGA Cabinet and is a leadership scholar. Carlie served on the SGA judicial board.



Whitney David Meeks, son of Joe and Lynda Meeks, is a Spanish and history double major from Pensacola, Florida. He is the president of Omicron Delta Kappa and a member of Alpha Lambda Delta honor society. Whit is a member of Alpha Tau Omega fraternity and serves the SGA judicial board as the Attorney General of the SGA.



Dylan Alexander Mezey, son of Andy and Lydia Mezey, is a biochemistry major from Montreal, Canada. He played varsity tennis for four years and won the C-USA sportsmanship award. Dylan is a member of Phi Kappa Tau fraternity and served as president in 2006. He is also a member of Omicron Delta Kappa and the American Chemical Society.



Rachel Marie Mullen, daughter of Marian Mullen, is a tourism management major from Lafayette, Louisiana. She is active as a member of Phi Mu sorority. Rachel is a Leadership scholar and a member of the Honors College. Rachel is also active in the Student Government Association where she served on the judicial board.



Owen Nelson Parker, son of Paul and Lois Parker, is a social work major from Hattiesburg, Mississippi. He is active in residence life, serving as an assistant hall director, resident assistant, and RHA representative. Owen is president of Southern Miss Council for Public Deliberation and president of Phi Mu Alpha symposium.



Rosalind Miles Richards, daughter of David and Debra Richards, is a child life major from Mobile, Alabama. She is a member of the Child Life Student Association, Wesley Foundation, and Delta Gamma sorority. She is also a member of Lambda Sigma and Order of Omega honor societies. She was a member of Southern Style in 2006.



Katharine Alexis Rudzki, daughter of Jeanne Rudzki, is an advertising major from Birmingham, Alabama. She is a leadership scholar and was a member of Southern Style in 2007. She is active in Eagle Connection, Catholic Student Association, Student Government Association as part of the judicial board and University Activities Council.



Logan Terrell Tisdale, son of Lynn and JoAnn Tisdale, is a biological sciences major from Isola, Mississippi. He is a Luckyday Scholar and Honors College Ambassador. Logan serves on The Legacy board and is President of Club Relay, which helps execute Relay for Life. He is also a member of Alpha Lambda Delta, Gamma Beta Phi and the Transfer Leadership Board.



Hilliary Layne Walters, daughter of Joseph and Vicki Walters, is a speech pathology major from Ellisville, Mississippi. She is an Honors College Ambassador and member of Phi Kappa Phi honor society. Hilliary is active in the Student Speech and Hearing Association and Lamda Sigma. She volunteers at the DuBard School for Language Disorders.



Sara Frances Nicholson, daughter of Charles and Vicki Nicholson, is a geography major from Brandon, Mississippi. She is a McNair Scholar and member of Alpha Lambda Delta, Lambda Sigma, and Phi Kappa Phi honor societies. Sara is active in the SGA, Omicron Delta Kappa and Delta Gamma sorority. She was a member of Southern Style in 2005.



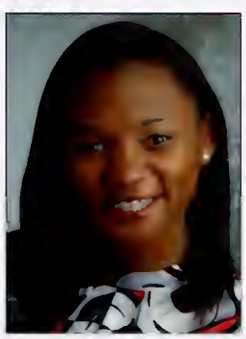
Kristal Laurinda Pollard, daughter of James and Gloria Pollard, is an English major from Heidelberg, Mississippi. Kristal was chosen as a McNair Scholar. She is president of IDEAL Women and is a member of the Honors College, Golden Key International Honor Society, and Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society. Kristal served as a Freshman Associate for the SGA.



Elizabeth Catherine Richardson, daughter of Sam and Susan Richardson, is a mathematics major from Vancleave, Mississippi. She is a member of Kappa Delta sorority and served as president in 2007. Beth is also Luckyday scholar and a member of Greek Seekers, Lambda Sigma and Alpha Lambda Delta. She was a member of Southern Style in 2006.



Oscar A. Shoemaker, son of Tracy Shoemaker, is a hospitality management major from Mendenhall, Mississippi. He is a Luckyday scholar and member of the Luckyday executive team. Oscar served as president of the Tourism Management Organization in 2006 and as vice president of the Business Student Advisory Council from 2006-2008.



Ashton Annice Tureaud, daughter of Edward and Synthia Tureaud, is a nursing major from Meridian, Mississippi. She is a Leadership scholar and was a cheerleader from 2004-2006. She is a College of Health Ambassador and member of Lambda Sigma honor society and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. She is a member of Alpha Lambda Delta and Golden Key.



Wren Elizabeth Ward, daughter of David and Leslie Ward, is a speech communication major from Little Rock, Arkansas. She is a member of Chi Omega sorority. Wren was on the executive team of the College Panhellenic Council, serving as vice-president of public relations and as president. She is a member of CSA and the Speech Communication Association.



Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities

leaders on the gulf coast

Photo by Jaime McKercher
Portraits by Christopher Bostick and Charmaine Williams

NOT PICTURED

Diane Beaugez Burnette is a psychology major from Biloxi, Mississippi. She is a member of Gamma Beta Phi and Psi Chi honor societies. She participated in the American Heart Association Heart Walk and the Chili Cookoff for Mississippi Gulf Coast Mental Health Association. She plans to become a substance abuse counselor.



Genevieve Caswell is a tourism management major from Gulfport, Mississippi. She is the recipient of the Hospitality Management Coastal Scholar Award and the Rex Distributing Excellence in Business Award. She is a member of Eta Sigma Delta honor society. Genevieve plans to work in the tourism industry on the Gulf Coast.



Blakely Wood Fore is an elementary education major from Gulfport, Mississippi. She was selected as the Department of Curriculum and Instruction's senior award winner. Blakely is a member of Kappa Delta Pi and the Psychology Student Association. She also volunteers with Meals on Wheels. Blakely plans to pursue a master's degree in school counseling.



Donna Gibson from Long Beach, Mississippi is pursuing her master's degree in adult health nursing. She is employed by Keesler Air Force Base. She is active with Boy Scouts of America as a committee member and troop leader. Donna plans to become a diabetes educator in the future.



Samuel Perkins Gill III is an English and geography double major from Ocean Spings, Mississippi. He is a member of Phi Theta Kappa and is the president of the Future Educators of America at the Jackson County campus. He hopes to earn a master's degree in Native American studies and become a university professor.



Courtney Elizabeth Green is an elementary education major from Gautier, Mississippi. She was a member of Kappa Delta sorority and has been on the dean's list and president's list. Courtney enjoys playing intramural soccer and volleyball. She plans to work as an elementary school teacher.



Christopher Daniel Hare is a history and political science double major from Long Beach, Mississippi. He has maintained a 4.0 GPA for his entire collegiate career. Chris served as president of the Gulf Coast SGA after Hurricane Katrina and helped with the rebuilding process on campus. He plans to attend law school and pursue a career as an environmental attorney.



Kendrick Kennedy is a management information systems major from Biloxi, Mississippi. Kendrick currently serves as the president of the Gulf Coast SGA. He is a state board member for the National Federation of the Blind and is the president of the Gulf Coast chapter of the organization. Kendrick plans to attend law school or pursue a Ph.D.



Vivian Marina McLean from Gulfport, Mississippi is pursuing an education specialist degree in educational administration. She is a National Board Certified Teacher and member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Vivian serves as a mentor for new teachers for the Biloxi Public School District. She plans to use her degree to become an instructional leader or school administrator.



Robert Charles Shiyou is from Diamondhead, Mississippi and is pursuing his M.B.A. He is a member of the National Scholars Honor Society. In his spare time, Robert coaches youth baseball and is a member of the Society of American Military Engineers. He plans to become a member of the senior executive service after graduation.



Elizabeth Walter is a social work major originally from Wichita, Kansas. She is a board member of Jackson County's Walter Anderson Players and a member of the National Association of Social Workers. Elizabeth is a United Way crisis hotline volunteer and adult literacy tutor. She plans to work in military social services after graduation.



Crystal Gayle Wooten is a child development major from Gulfport, Mississippi. She is a member of Gamma Beta Phi and Golden Key honor society. She has been recognized by the Office of Disability Accomodations for outstanding community service and academic achievement. After graduation, she plans to teach children with special needs.



Melissa Jewel Herndon is a psychology major from Gulfport, Mississippi. She is a member of Psi Chi and Golden Key honor society. Melissa volunteers with Project Recovery and is a tutor at the Children's Shelter. She plans to earn a master's degree in forensic science and pursue a career as a crime scene investigator.



Paula Racey Lee is a psychology major from Saucier, Mississippi. She is a member of Psi Chi and the Exchange Club. She was recognized by the psychology department for academic excellence. Paula is a certified interpreter for the deaf and plans to teach special education.



Justin Mitchell Miller is a history and political science double major from Long Beach, Mississippi. He is in the United States Marine Corps and recently completed officer candidates school. Justin is the founding president of the Gulf Coast chapter of College Republicans and also served as the president of the SGA. He plans to serve as an officer in the Marine Corps.



Vickie Jordan Tiblier from Ocean Springs, Mississippi is pursuing a doctorate of philosophy. She is a National Board Certified school counselor and member of the National Scholars Honor Society. Vickie is currently the principal at Martin Bluff Elementary School in Pascagoula and plans to use her degree to pursue a leadership role at the district level.



Jennifer Jo Woodruff is from Ocean Springs, Mississippi and is pursuing a master's degree in educational leadership. She is a member of Gamma Beta Phi and Phi Kappa Phi honor societies. Jennifer has been a teacher for 15 years and has served as assistant softball coach and freshman class sponsor at Gautier High School. She plans to work with curriculums and train teachers after completing her degree.

Outstanding Freshmen beginning to leave their mark



Andrew Dickinson Brown, son of Norman and Susan Brown, is a presidential scholar from Madison, Mississippi. He is a member of the Pi Kappa Phi fraternity, the University Activities Council, and the Legacy. He was pledge class treasurer and is Assistant Chairperson of Philanthropy for Pi Kappa Phi.



Suzanna Lee Ellzey, daughter of Burke and Diane Ellzey, is a presidential scholar from Hattiesburg, Mississippi. Suzanna is an active member of the Delta Delta Delta sorority as the activities chairperson for the organization. She is also a member of the Legacy, a ZooBoo Volunteer, and a student in the Honors College.



Lila Alexis Hudson, daughter of Carolyn Hudson Ingram, is a presidential scholar from Madison, Mississippi. She is a member of the Afro-American Student Association, and the American Chemistry Society. As a freshman, she has also been recognized for research in the College of Science and Technology.



Kasey Charlene Mitchell, daughter of Melanie and Donald Mitchell, is a presidential scholar from Picayune, Mississippi. She is president of the Freshmen Associates and Vice President of Philanthropy for Phi Beta Phi sorority. Additionally, she is a member of the Baptist Student Union and UAC.



William Reece Nunnery, son of Reece and Terri Nunnery, is a presidential scholar from McComb, Mississippi. William is a member of the Legacy, the Honors College, and a charter member of the French Society. William also studied abroad at The Abbey in Pontlevoy, France during the spring semester.



Lauren Elizabeth Richards, daughter of Phillip and Wendy Richards, is a Luckyday scholar from Ridgeland, Mississippi. She is the Chairperson of Public Relations for the Freshman Associates and a Junior Panhellenic Delegate for Kappa Delta. Lauren is also a member of the Legacy, the University Singers, and the Diamond Darlings.

Most Outstanding Freshmen



Jessica Hart Parker

Jessica Hart Parker, the daughter of Charles and Rebecca Parker, is a vice presidential scholar from Ocean Springs, Mississippi. She is also a member of the Honors College, a leadership scholar, and an Explosion of Excellence Scholar. She is a member of the Freshman Associates, the University Activities Council, the American Chemical Society, and Alpha Delta Pi sorority. During the school year, Jessica works with USM's Migratory Bird Laboratory, and in the summer she is employed as an intern with the Gulf Coast Research Lab's parasitology laboratory.

"My freshman year at USM has been a life changing experience," said Parker. "USM has challenged me to enjoy the college experience by taking the advice of Dr. Martha Saunders by 'riding all the rides' this year."



Blake Elliot Watkins

Blake Elliot Watkins, the son of Willie and Evelyn Watkins, is a leadership scholar from McComb, Mississippi. He was appointed as a 2008 Leadership Scholars Ambassador and is also a resident assistant for Bond Hall. In his free time, he plays both basketball and tennis on intramural teams and is a member of the Faculty Staff Committee on Student Organizations, the JAM Food Committee, and the Legacy.

"What I've enjoyed most about my year here at USM has been the opportunity to meet new people from different backgrounds," said Watkins. "I came from a place where diversity wasn't really a common thing, and so that's part of the reason why I even chose to come here. In the end, though, the best advice I can give to any student based on this year is to keep your grades up, because it really pays off in the end."

Abankanda, Adetokunbo *jr.*
Abbey, Jasmine *fr.*
Abby, Stephanie *so.*
Abrams, Jason *sr.*
Adair, Marlon *sr.*
Adams, Damiene *jr.*



Adams, Kenya *sr.*
Adams, Stephen *fr.*
Adams Jr., Henry *sr.*
Adkins, Hunter *so.*
Ainsworth, Ashley *so.*
Alemu, Mesgana *sr.*



Alexander, Kent *sr.*
Alexander, Tawana *jr.*
Ali, Sarrah *jr.*
Allbritton, Raven *jr.*
Allen, Alyssa *fr.*
Allman, Matthew *sr.*



Anderson, Ashlye *so.*
Anderson, Bentley *jr.*
Anderson, Larry *so.*
Anderson, Paul *jr.*
Anderson, Romesha *fr.*
Angel, Watson *so.*



Anthony, Kathryn *sr.*
Armstrong, William *so.*
Arnold, Ryan *sr.*
Arntz, Shaun *sr.*
Arrington, Jared *fr.*
Ashley, Emily *sr.*



Assad, Lauran *so.*
Assink, Stephen *jr.*
Atkins, Chaquan *jr.*
Atkins, Jalesha *fr.*
Austin, Glenn *so.*
Austin, Montrell *fr.*



Bach, Jennifer *so.*
Bailey, Chae *jr.*
Bailey, Taylor *so.*
Bain, Gjio *sr.*
Baker, Amanda *sr.*
Baker, Loreen *sr.*



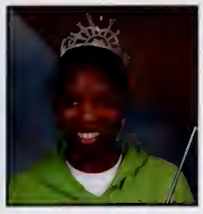
Baldo, Kimberly *jr.*
Baldwin, Frederick *sr.*
Ball, Nicole *gr.*
Ballenger, Tori *fr.*
Ballentine, Camille *fr.*
Barabin, Bryden *fr.*



Barbour, Austin *so.*
Barnes, Deliyah *fr.*
Barnett, Margaret *sr.*
Barr, Yvette *so.*
Bartran, Andrew *sr.*
Bass, Janna *sr.*







Bass, Sarah *fr.*
Bateman, Arielle *fr.*
Bates, Demetra *sr.*
Bates, Jasmine *fr.*
Baughman, Christopher *fr.*
Baumgartner, Sarah *sr.*








Baylis, Elijah *so.*
Beasley, Christina *sr.*
Beattie, Jill *so.*
Beech, Dora *so.*
Bell, Jessica *fr.*
Bell, Tempestt *sr.*








Bender, Caitlin *fr.*
Bender, Stella *sr.*
Benigno, Jessica *sr.*
Benn, Consula *fr.*
Benn, Sophia *sr.*
Bennett, Chad *so.*








Bennett, Kimberly *sr.*
Benvenutti, Laurie *jr.*
Bergin, Amanda *jr.*
Besancon, Maegen *fr.*
Bibbs, Nejewish *sr.*
Bill, Mathew *jr.*








Bingham, Deidre *sr.*
Bishop, Josh *jr.*
Black, Lauren *sr.*
Black, Mallory *jr.*
Black, Shirrell *fr.*
Blackwood, Joelle *so.*








Blakely, Whitney *so.*
Bland, Jameeka *fr.*
Bodies, Jimmy *so.*
Bolden, Brittany *sr.*
Boleware, Irene *sr.*
Bolner, Hannah *so.*






Bonelli, Amanda *fr.*
Booker, JaRita *sr.*
Boone, Koby *sr.*
Borden, Gilliah *fr.*
Bosley, Kaitlyn *fr.*
Bostick, Christopher *so.*

Bounds, Michelle *sr.*
Bower, Stephanie *jr.*
Bozeman, William *sr.*
Bradshaw, Lisa *sr.*
Brasfield, Brandy *fr.*
Braud, Sara *fr.*

Braun, Lloyd *sr.*
Brett, Lynn *jr.*
Bridges, Aaron *so.*
Bridley, Reagan *so.*
Briggs, Lakisha *sr.*
Brisbi, Brad *so.*



A COLORFUL INSPIRATION

tyleen caffrey

In a room on the third floor of College Hall, Tyleen Caffrey stood surrounded by an array of colorful dresses. "We have two hundred fifty to three hundred now," said the social work graduate student from Kansas City, Kansas. "We're getting dresses so fast now that I can't even keep track of them all."

Caffrey plans to donate the dresses to girls in the Mississippi foster care system for use during the spring prom season. "It was just a simple project, at first," she said, "but things have just exploded. Southern Miss made a press release, then the Hattiesburg American picked it up, then the Clarion Ledger in Jackson, and then the story went statewide. This project means a lot to me, because it comes from something very personal."

Caffrey herself entered foster care just two weeks before her senior prom. "It's often difficult financially for foster parents around prom season," Caffrey said. "I was fortunate because my foster mother was a seamstress and she made me a great dress. But other girls aren't so lucky."

The program first started in October. "At first it was going to be small," Caffrey said. "I planned to collect twenty to thirty dresses. There was going to be an essay contest for a full makeover, but after a single salon offered to take ten girls, I realized things would grow beyond the original vision."

"It's a lot to handle, especially with three kids, and while also working on my research project for grad school, but I love it, and it's going to be worth it."

The step Caffrey expects to be most rewarding is delivering the prom dresses to the girls who need them. A local RV dealership donated the use of a vehicle to carry the dresses to Department of Human Services offices across the state. "It's exciting," Caffrey said. "The media is going to cover each stop. I kind of hope to get some national attention."

While she graduates in May, Caffrey hopes her project goes on. "Perhaps another department or foundation could take over," she said. "But as for me, I've loved sharing my foster care experiences, because that's what really got this going." Standing in the little room on the third floor of College Hall, Caffrey smiled. "In the end it's all about the foster families," she said. "Anything to help the kids."

Story by Bradley Warshauer

Background Photo by Christy Dyess

Brittany, Coleman *fr.*
Brooks, Ellis *fr.*
Brooks, William *so.*
Brown, Amber *so.*
Brown, Andrew *fr.*
Brown, Angela *sr.*








Brown, Elizabeth *jr.*
Brown, Francie *so.*
Brown, Jasmine *fr.*
Brown, Jelesia *fr.*
Brown, Rita *jr.*
Brown, Zachary *so.*








Brumfield, Kristina *fr.*
Brumfield, Monicah *so.*
Brundidge, Eric *sr.*
Bryan, Tristan *jr.*
Bryant, Isaac *jr.*
Bryant, Scott *sr.*










Buchanan, Molly *sr.*
Bucher, Emily *fr.*
Buckley, Hope *sr.*
Buckley Jr., Stanley *so.*
Buggs, James *fr.*
Bullock, Laura *so.*



Bullock, Rachel *sr.*
Bumpers, Brittany *jr.*
Bunn, Jason *jr.*
Burge, Ashley *so.*
Burks, Channing *jr.*
Burns, Lisa *so.*



Burroughs, Britney *jr.*
Burwell, Galina *jr.*
Busby, Kenneth *so.*
Bush, Chad *jr.*
Bush, Johnna *fr.*
Bush, Leah *sr.*



Butler, Andrew *sr.*
Butler, Brandon *so.*
Buxton, Frotasha *fr.*
Byrd, Chad *so.*
Cade, Shelby *so.*
Caffrey, Tyleen *gr.*



Calhoun, Hillary *fr.*
Calliet Jr., Larue *fr.*
Cameron, Erica *jr.*
Campbell, Seth *so.*
Cangiamilla, Kristen *jr.*
Caples, Courtney *jr.*



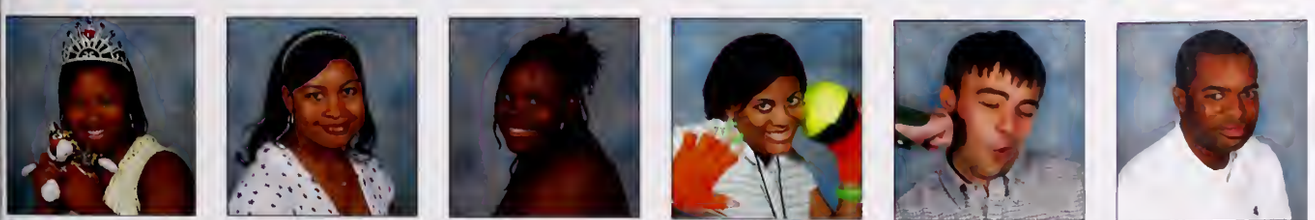
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Carr, Crystal *fr.*
Carr, Mary *fr.*
Carradine, Marcus *jr.*
Carson, Greg *sr.*
Carter, Earnest *jr.*



Carter, Gary *sr.*
Carter, LaPorsha *so.*
Carter, Tangee *sr.*
Cater, Thomas *jr.*
Cathey, Joshua *fr.*
Cenac, Marie *sr.*



Chamberlain, Heather *sr.*
Chaney, B.J. *sr.*
Childress, Charles *fr.*
Chodrick, Kirsten *fr.*
Cieglo, Mollie *sr.*
Clark, Amber *so.*



Clark, Anisha *sr.*
Clark, Lauren *fr.*
Clark, Rashonda *fr.*
Clark, Shambry *so.*
Clark, Taylor *so.*
Clark Jr., Ricky *fr.*

Clayton, Takymmea *sr.*
Clemmons, John *sr.*
Clincy, Sheila *so.*
Coates, Dewitt *sr.*
Cobia, Mary-Amanda *so.*
Coker, Alicia *sr.*



Cole, Jessica *jr.*
Cole, Jhirmar *fr.*
Coleman, Aretas *fr.*
Coleman, Callista *so.*
Coleman, Jessica *fr.*
Coleman, Kaylon *jr.*



Coleman, Sarah *so.*
Collette, Kathleen *sr.*
Collignon, Craig *so.*
Collins, Calvin *so.*
Collins, O'Kieya *fr.*
Collins, Warren *fr.*



Cone, Ricky *jr.*
Conner, Jessica *sr.*
Conner, Jotrina *jr.*
Conway, Alison *sr.*
Cook, Andrea *jr.*
Cooley, Kimberly *gr.*



Copeland, Catherine *so.*
Cosey-Williams, Chantelle *fr.*
Covington, Wade *fr.*
Cowger, Chris *fr.*
Cox, Sean *sr.*
Craft, Victor *so.*



Crain, Ezzard *sr.*
Crawford, Zach *jr.*
Criswell, Mason *sr.*
Culpepper, Michelle *sr.*
Culver, Jonica *fr.*
Curry, Fabian *so.*



Cyprian, Kristin *sr.*
Dakin, Meryl *fr.*
Daley, Sarah *so.*
Dancy, Kendra *jr.*
Danyus, Ryan *jr.*
Datel, Dipali *jr.*

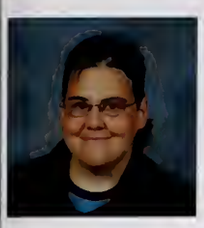


Dauner, Dakoda *jr.*
Davenport, Simon *so.*
Davis, Adrienne *so.*
Davis, Casey *so.*
Davis, Justin *fr.*
Davis, Lucas *jr.*



Davis, Roianna *sr.*
De Los Santos, Cintia *el.*
Dean, Nick *sr.*
DeJean, Jessica *so.*
Delery, Leah *fr.*
Demedicis, Molly *fr.*










Dement, Angie *sr.*
DeMontluzin, Michelle *jr.*
DeRossette, James *fr.*
DeVual, Kamenski *fr.*
Dickens, Tremayne *fr.*
Dickerson, Denise *jr.*








Dickerson, Garrett *sr.*
Dickey, Jatina *sr.*
Diggs, Ki-Usha *so.*
Dillon, Marcus *jr.*
Dinkins, Lasheika *sr.*
Dixon, FaCheryl *sr.*








Dobbie, Emily *so.*
Dobbs, Thomas *so.*
Docher, Chris *so.*
Dollar, Esther *so.*
Dooley, Tiffany *so.*
Dorsey, Jasmine *so.*







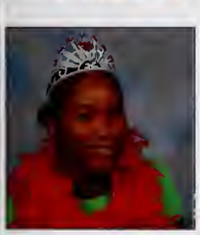

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Doughty, Sydney *fr.*
Douglas, Katharine *fr.*
Douglas, Michelle *jr.*
Doyle, Tamara *fr.*
Dozier, Zachary *sr.*








Driscoll, Paul *so.*
Duke, Michael *fr.*
Duke, Steven *fr.*
Duncan, Cornelius *sr.*
Dunigan, Dedrick *so.*
Dunne, Melissa *fr.*








Durr, Kaya *fr.*
Dyess, Christy *jr.*
Ealy, Amy *sr.*
Easterling, Joy *so.*
Eation, Veronica *fr.*
Edward, Dean *sr.*






Edwards, Dustin *fr.*
Edwards, James *jr.*
Edwards, Rachael *fr.*
Edwards, Sandy *sr.*
Ehrlich, Rae *fr.*
Elkins, Evan *so.*

Ellis, Whitney *so.*
Ellzey, Suzanna *fr.*
Epps III, Christopher *jr.*
Erves, Jacqueline *fr.*
Erves, Travis *so.*
Etheridge, Jillian *fr.*

Eubanks, Tessa *jr.*
Evans, Amanda *sr.*
Evans, Anthony *so.*
Evans, James *jr.*
Evans, Jeanette *jr.*
Evans, Julie *jr.*

Evans, Maggie *so.*
Everette, Candace *fr.*
Fabra, Vincent *sr.*
Fairley, Altonyala *sr.*
Fairley, Thomas *jr.*
Farr, Cole *jr.*



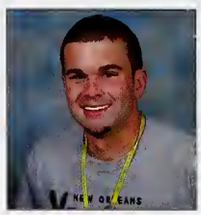





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Fears, Ebony *so.*
Ferguson, Hope *sr.*
Fields, Ashley *fr.*
Fields, Clayton *fr.*
Fields, Evin *so.*



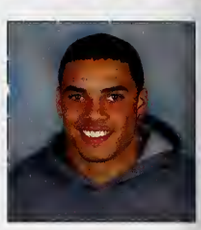





Finch, Felicia *so.*
Finney, David *jr.*
Fisackerly, Patrick *so.*
Flamenco, Gloria *sr.*
Fletcher, Cheris *jr.*
Fletcher, Damion *so.*





Fletcher, Janice *so.*
Ford, Malorie *jr.*
Foreman, Stephanie *jr.*
Forman, Bethany *jr.*
Foster, Kimberly *so.*
Foster, Lisa *sr.*



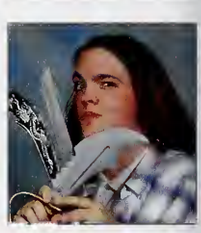





Fountain, Andrew *so.*
Fountain, Chimene *so.*
Francis, Teshawn *so.*
Franklin, Latoria *so.*
Franklin, Sasha *so.*
Freeman, Elliot *so.*





Fries, Patrick *sr.*
Frye, Natalie *so.*
Gaddis, Leslie *sr.*
Gadilhe, Joseph *so.*
Gagliano, Vinni *fr.*
Gales, DeAngelo *fr.*








Gamble, Clare *jr.*
Gambrell, Laura *fr.*
Ganger, Shetara *fr.*
Garrett, Brittany *fr.*
Garrett, Comekio *sr.*
Gaude, Blase *jr.*






Gearlds, Samantha *so.*
Gibson, Donna *gr.*
Gibson, Katelynn *fr.*
Gibson, Sharon *so.*
Giegler, Teresa *sr.*
Gilbert, Rebecca *so.*

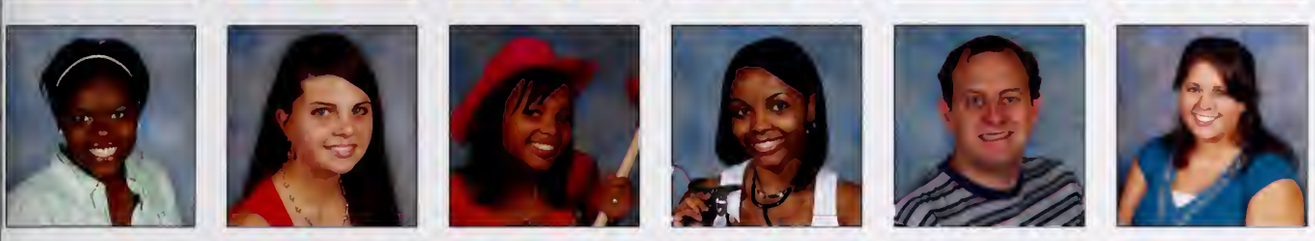
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Gilmore, Kathy *sr.*
Gilmore, Niesha *fr.*
Gilner, Stacie *sr.*



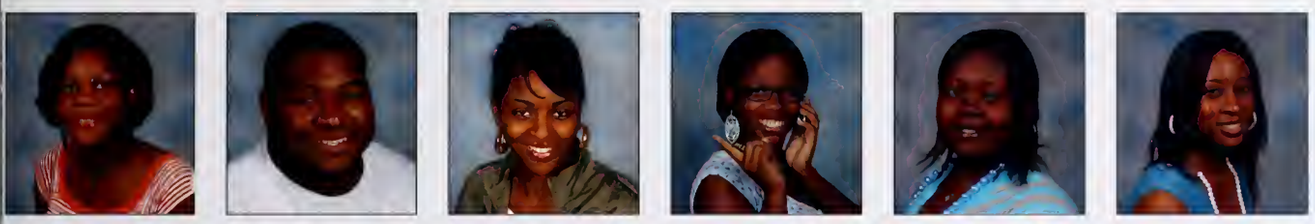
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Gladney, Alexis *so.*
Glasco, Bradley *so.*
Glaser, Katherine *jr.*
Glenn, Brookelyn *fr.*
Glenn, Ramon *so.*



Glorioso, John *fr.*
Glover, Jasmine *fr.*
Goins Jr., Stradford *fr.*
Goldsmith, Erica *sr.*
Goodman, Lauren *sr.*
Gordon, Chanora *jr.*



Grace, LaVonia *fr.*
Graham, Kallie *so.*
Graham, Meghan *so.*
Grant, Brittany *so.*
Gravelle, Christopher *sr.*
Graves, Erin *gr.*



Graves, Shayla *sr.*
Gray, Anthony *so.*
Gray, Jazmyn *sr.*
Gray, Sorinthia *fr.*
Green, Antoinette *so.*
Green, Candace *so.*



Green, Kiara *fr.*
Green, Terrance *jr.*
Griffin, Johnathan *sr.*
Griffin, Lesly *so.*
Griffin, Robert *fr.*
Griffith, Chance *fr.*



Gross Jr., Chester *so.*
Grove, Latisha *so.*
Grubbs, Logan *sr.*
Grush, Heather *sr.*
Guillot, Jeffery *so.*
Guo, Mary *jr.*



Gutterman, Lauren *so.*
Gwin, Mary *jr.*
Haas, Leigh *fr.*
Hager, Catherine *sr.*
Hall, DeLorean *so.*
Halula, Nicholas *fr.*



Hamilton, Sheena *sr.*
Hamlin, Elizabeth *so.*
Hamm, Jerry *sr.*
Hampton, Gary *fr.*
Hampton, Robinique *fr.*
Hanes, Melissa *sr.*



Haney, Scott *jr.*
Hannah, Erin *sr.*
Hannah, Marticus *fr.*
Harper, Emily *so.*
Harper, Jillian *sr.*
Harper, Timothy *sr.*

Harris, Antrone *jr.*
Harris, Crystal *fr.*
Harris, Diamond *so.*
Harris, Norris *jr.*
Harris, Teetra *sr.*
Harris, Tiaura *jr.*








Harris, Zandrea *jr.*
Harrison, Colin *jr.*
Harrison, Tamra *sr.*
Hartfield, Jasmine *sr.*
Hassell, Zachary *so.*
Hatch, Shelley *sr.*



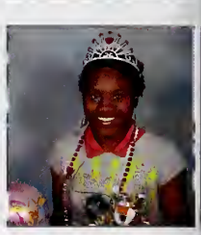





Hatten, William *jr.*
Hauptmann, Shannon *so.*
Hawkins, Bryant *so.*
Hayes, Cathy *jr.*
Haynes, Daisy *jr.*
Heard, Alexis *fr.*





Hedman, Jeremy *sr.*
Hembree, Kelly *sr.*
Henderson, Joshua *so.*
Hennigan, Karalie *so.*
Hermetz, Kristen *sr.*
Herrin, Nathan *fr.*








Hesselberg, Johnny *jr.*
Hicks, Jana *sr.*
Higginbotham, Corey *so.*
Higginbotham, Ila *so.*
Hill, Gerica *fr.*
Hill, Jhamahl *jr.*








Hill, Stephanie *so.*
Hillman, William *so.*
Hilton, Anthony *sr.*
Hilton, Denny *jr.*
Himebrook, Sarah *sr.*
Hobson, Shanice *fr.*








Hoda, Ryan *fr.*
Hodges, Hayley *fr.*
Hodo, Brittany *so.*
Hoes, Shane *fr.*
Hoff, Emily *so.*
Hofmann, Carrie *so.*






Holden, Moses *jr.*
Holliday, Lia *jr.*
Hollins, Amber *fr.*
Holman, Shane *sr.*
Holmes, Cassandra *sr.*
Holt, Jevelle *sr.*

Hooker, Connella *fr.*
Hopkins, Lindsay *so.*
Hopkins, Sharde *fr.*
Hopper, Anthony *jr.*
Hopson, Rayshun *sr.*
Horne, Tommy *jr.*








Horton, Victoria *jr.*
Hosey, Justin *jr.*
Hough, Robert *sr.*
House, Devan *so.*
Howard, Darius *jr.*
Howard, LeKeith *jr.*








Howard, Tameka *so.*
Howell, Emily *sr.*
Howell, Lori *jr.*
Hrapmann, Renee *so.*
Hudson, DeMarcus *sr.*
Huffman, Joy *so.*








Hughes, Kristen *fr.*
Hughes, Kristopher *jr.*
Hughes, Morgan *jr.*
Huntoon, Amanda *sr.*
Hurdes, Marjorie *fr.*
Husley, Rebecca *fr.*



PLAYING FROM THE HEART

aa'keela hudnall

"Music is love, and love is life. Music is my passion, and life without passion is spent in vain," said Aa'Keela Hudnall, a senior entertainment industry major from Meridian, Mississippi, as she gently slides her fingers across the piano keys. Aa'Keela blushes when asked where her music sheets are. "Honestly, I don't know how to read music," she said. "I taught myself how to play piano when I was five years old and I've been playing from the heart ever since."

In addition to her personal pursuits, Aa'Keela is part of the Meridian-based music group Sincere. "I chose the name Sincere because we try to make our performances raw and honest. The way in which we perform our music is as real as it gets."

The group plays songs from many genres, and many of their songs are Aa'Keela's original compositions. "I've been writing my own music since I was eight and singing is something that just came naturally to me."

Aa'Keela is also a member of Young People of Praise, a gospel-recording choir from Meridian. As a member, she had the opportunity to open for the Mississippi Mass Choir and serve as personal assistant to Patty Labelle. When in Hattiesburg, Aa'Keela also plays with the band Intuition at campus events.

Beyond music, Aa'Keela is heavily involved on campus as both a student and a scholar. She is chaplain and NPHC delegate of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.; Vice President of Finance for Alpha Kappa Psi Business Fraternity Inc.; Vice President of the Afro-American Student Organization; Vice president, chaplain, and New Member Advisor for I.D.E.A.L. Women; secretary for the National Pan-Hellenic Council Executive Board; a member of the SGA Judicial Board; and a member of the Future Black Lawyers Student Association.

Aa'Keela is on the President's List, a National Ventures Scholar, a Luckyday Scholar and a member of the Alpha Lambda Delta Honor Society. Aa'Keela is the 2007-2008 Miss Black and Gold for the Mu Xi Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. and is Miss Gold (First Alternate) for the State Pageant of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. She volunteers at the McWane Center, Habitat for Humanity and the Alpha Christian School.

Next year Aa'Keela plans to attend law school at Mississippi College in Jackson, studying musical, media, and entertainment law. After graduating from law school, Aa'Keela plans to work in the entertainment industry, with a focus on music production.

Story by Brettany Payne

Background Photo by Brettany Payne

Hynes, Alexis *fr.*
Hypolite, Chantell *so.*
Ingram, Jeffrey *jr.*
Iqbal, Mohammad *sr.*
Isaac, Courtney *jr.*
Ishakarah, Ashanti *sr.*



Ivanova, Maia *so.*
Jackson, Ciara *so.*
Jackson, Constance *jr.*
Jackson, Elizabeth *sr.*
Jackson, Jasmeial *sr.*
Jackson, LaToya *jr.*



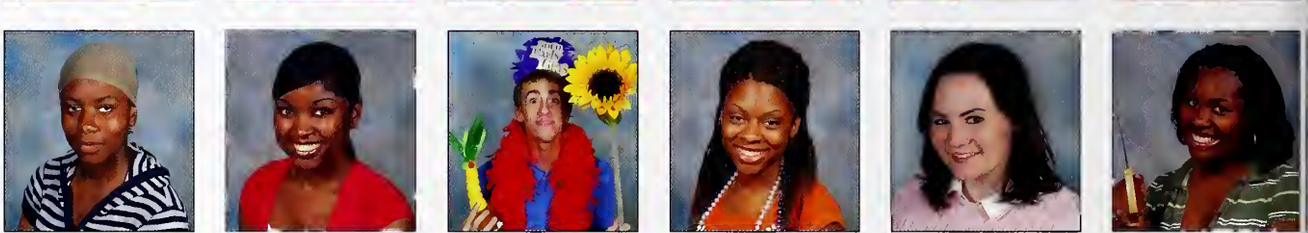
Jackson, Sedrick *sr.*
James, Aisha *jr.*
James, Jimila *so.*
James, Keyana *jr.*
Jarvis, Burnette *jr.*
Jefferson, Ashelee *so.*



Jefferson, Shacortney *so.*
Jefferson, Shayla *so.*
Jimenez, Jaime *sr.*
Johnson, Amber *fr.*
Johnson, Arishamar *fr.*
Johnson, Clara *fr.*



Johnson, Courtney *fr.*
Johnson, Darketta *so.*
Johnson, David *jr.*
Johnson, DeAndra *so.*
Johnson, Ellen *jr.*
Johnson, Jasmine *sr.*



Johnson, Jeannette *sr.*
Johnson, Kelsey *fr.*
Johnson, Mishayla *so.*
Johnson, Nicole *fr.*
Johnson, Robert *sr.*
Johnson, Schelle *sr.*



Johnson, Whitney *so.*
Jones, Ashlie *so.*
Jones, Brittany *jr.*
Jones, Brooke *fr.*
Jones, Chandra *jr.*
Jones, Elijah *fr.*



Jones, Harold *sr.*
Jones, Kayla *fr.*
Jones, Robert *so.*
Jones, Shyra *jr.*
Jones Jr., Michael *so.*
Jordan, Alfred *jr.*



Jordan, Jeremy *jr.*
Jordan, Jessica *so.*
Jordan, Rachel *sr.*
Jordan, Shawntrice *fr.*
Jordan, Terry *sr.*
Joya, Elaine *sr.*










Jude, Joey *sr.*
Kane, Alicia *so.*
Katcliff, Katrena *so.*
Keenan, Laura *fr.*
Kelch, Heather *sr.*
Kelly, Christopher *fr.*








Kelly, Kayla *jr.*
Kennedy, Kendrick *sr.*
Kern, Glen *fr.*
Keys, Kensley *jr.*
Keys, Tremaine *so.*
Khan, Jonathan *so.*








Kidd, John *jr.*
Killingsworth, Elicia *so.*
King, Dalamon *so.*
King, Jon *so.*
King, Kameo *so.*
Kinn, Cordell *jr.*








Kinney, Michael *jr.*
Kirk, Lindsey *jr.*
Knaus, Kierstan *so.*
Knight, Brandon *jr.*
Knight, Kyra *fr.*
Knight, Lori *so.*








Knowles, Bene' *sr.*
Knox, Alesha *fr.*
Knox, Stephanie *so.*
Krouse, Shannon *so.*
Kweller, Jodi *so.*
LaBeaud, Lawrence *jr.*








LaBue, Brandon *fr.*
Lacey, Ashley *sr.*
Ladner, Melissa *jr.*
Ladnier, Samuel *so.*
LaGraize, Earl *jr.*
Lamb, Duyen *sr.*






Lamb, Jennifer *so.*
Lambright, Bart *sr.*
Lambuth, Emily *jr.*
Lampkin, Keith *sr.*
Lamplugh, Zachary *so.*
Lane, Tiffany *sr.*

Lang, Whitney *fr.*
Larry, LaDrena *sr.*
Latiker, Sojundra *jr.*
Lauza, Stephanie *fr.*
Laughlin, Patrick *fr.*
Laury, Krystal *so.*

Lavender, Lamont *sr.*
Lavvorn, Kati *sr.*
Lawless, Christina *fr.*
Lawrence, Jacob *so.*
Lawson, Alexis *fr.*
Lawson, Robyn *sr.*

Lazzarino, Jonathan *so.*
Le, Kiet *jr.*
LeBlanc, Heather *sr.*
Lee, Andrew *fr.*
Lee, Robert *so.*
Leek, John *so.*








Leist, Julie *sr.*
Lepard, Marisa *jr.*
Leufroy, Chad *jr.*
Lewis, Bradley *jr.*
Lewis, Kenderick *sr.*
Lewis, LaKesha *fr.*








Lewis, Shanera *fr.*
Lewis, Teresa *so.*
Lindsey, Heather *fr.*
Lingenfelder, Katherine *so.*
Linton, Shawn *jr.*
Little, Clark *jr.*








Lloyd, Mitchell *so.*
Llyod, Michael *so.*
Lock, Keandra *so.*
Lockett, Angelina *jr.*
Loftin, Kayla *jr.*
Lofton Jr., Michael *sr.*








Long, Ashley *jr.*
Longmire, Cache' *so.*
Lorance, Derek *fr.*
Losset, Evan *sr.*
Lott, Jennifer *sr.*
Lott, Shan *sr.*








Lovinggood, Hillary *sr.*
Lovinggood, Stuart *so.*
Lozano, Mandie *so.*
Lozes, Lindsey *jr.*
Lucius, William *jr.*
Lyle, Matthew *fr.*








Lynch, Terrence *fr.*
Lyons, Jerome *sr.*
MacMahon, Elizabeth *so.*
Macon, Christopher *jr.*
Maddox, Ginger *sr.*
Magee II, Roger *jr.*






Malik, Sady *sr.*
Malone, Daniel *sr.*
Malore, Ashley *so.*
Maloy, Elizabeth *so.*
Manning, Dustin *fr.*
Mansell, Zach *fr.*

Marroy, Christopher *so.*
Marsh, Stephen *sr.*
Marshall, Andrea *sr.*
Marshall, Macallister *sr.*
Martin, Drew *jr.*
Martin, Heather *sr.*



Martin, James *sr.*
Martin, Madeline *fr.*
Martin, Rearra *fr.*
Martin, Shonquia *fr.*
Martin, Victoria *fr.*
Matthews, Jade *sr.*



Matthews, Michael *jr.*
May, Anthony *sr.*
May, Ashley *so.*
May, Kiel *sr.*
May, LaMonica *fr.*
Mays, Kensharo *fr.*



McAllister, Jill *so.*
McArn, Clyde *fr.*
McCain, Samantha *jr.*
McCarthy, Patricia *fr.*
McCarty, Tanesha *sr.*
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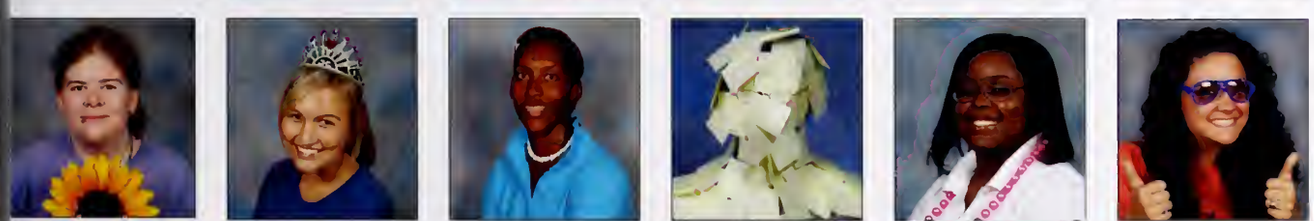
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McConnell, Tamora *so.*
McCormick, Troy *sr.*
McCrary, Thomas *fr.*



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McDouald, Lauren *sr.*



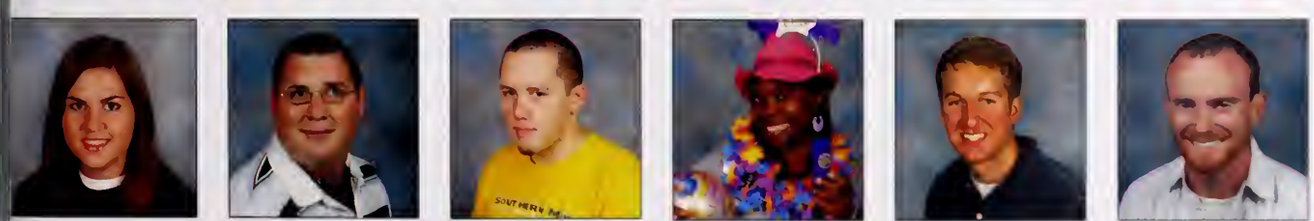
McGee, Cornelius *jr.*
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McGill, Shannon *sr.*
McGrath, Kelly *so.*
McGraw, Brandi *fr.*



McInnis, Hannah *so.*
McKay, Jarane *fr.*
McKenzie, Ebony *jr.*
McKercher, Jaime *sr.*
McKinght, Courtney *sr.*
McLain, Kayla *so.*



McLaurin, Sandra *gr.*
McNay, Donald *sr.*
McNeal, Jonathan *fr.*
McNeely, Donna *sr.*
McNesse, Craig *sr.*
McRath, Gerald *sr.*



McSparrin, Samantha *jr.*
Meaddor, Tyler *sr.*
Mee, Steven *so.*
Meeks, Kimberly *fr.*
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Meigs, David *sr.*

Melaneon, Emily *jr.*
Melanie, Nunn *so.*
Mereer, Lucinda *jr.*
Meriwether, William *jr.*
Messer, James *jr.*
Michael, Alex *so.*



Miethe, Bernardo *so.*
Mignott, Jamie *sr.*
Miller, Courtney *fr.*
Miller, Kathleen *sr.*
Milsap, Brittany *sr.*
Minor, Brittanie *fr.*



Minor, Kathy *so.*
Misko, Miehelle *fr.*
Mitchell, Cashenna *sr.*
Monks, Mary *so.*
Moody, Semiko *sr.*
Moore, Ian *so.*



Moore, Madison *jr.*
Mordica, Sarah *fr.*
Morel, Jeffrey *fr.*
Morgan, Antwanette *so.*
Morgan, Davis *jr.*
Morgan, Megan *jr.*



Morgan, Phameea *sr.*
Morgan, Ronya *sr.*
Morris, Celeste *jr.*
Morris, Johdrick *so.*
Morris, Joseph *so.*
Morris, Kevin *so.*



Mottley, Ryan *fr.*
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Murray, Heather *fr.*
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Myriek, Robin *jr.*



Nabzdyk, Jennifer *so.*
Nails, Jamal *fr.*
Nakova, Bumbrey *jr.*
Nash, DeMarcus *jr.*
Ndishabandi, Dorothy *fr.*
Nelson, Anthony *so.*



Nettles, Amanda *so.*
Nettles, Katelyn *so.*
Newman, Ciara *fr.*
Newmann, Maria *jr.*
Nguyen, Khanh *fr.*
Niehols, Lakisha *so.*



Nick, Melissa *sr.*
Nicosia, Courtney *fr.*
Nix, Samantha *sr.*
Nunez, Bereniee *fr.*
Nunez, Lizbeth *sr.*
Nunez, Mollie *so.*



CATALIZING CHANGE

jessica shackleford

Sometimes, all that is required for someone to make the jump from student to scholar is a single opportunity.

"I chose to come to USM because it had an excellent chemistry department, and because you could get involved in research early in your undergraduate career," said Jessica Shackleford, a junior ACS-certified chemistry major from Senatobia, Mississippi.

By taking advantage of this opportunity, she was able to participate in research as a freshman. At the end of her sophomore year, she had been awarded a Goldwater scholarship, a national science award extended to roughly three hundred sophomores and juniors annually. Jessica was one of only about thirty sophomores awarded nationwide.

"I didn't believe it, I thought someone was playing a joke on me. I really owe it to Dr. Masterson, who took a chance on me as a freshman, inviting me into his research group."

Since winning her place as a Goldwater scholar, Jessica hasn't rested on her laurels. She is currently an ambassador for the College of Science and Technology, a lab instructor, and an honorable mention on the USA Today All-Star Academics Team. In addition, Jessica is often called upon to speak at seminars.

"Once you have knowledge and experience, the only thing you can really do with it that's worth anything is to share it."

To that end, Jessica founded a community-service organization called FANTASIA: Freeing America's Natural Talent As Students In Academia. The group helps high school students with college applications, resumes, and the college admission process.

"I was a first generation college student and I wanted to help other students who were in that same position."

Jessica is currently working on her second research project, hoping to find new methods of producing a core chemical structure of pharmaceutical serotonin.

When asked about her favorite part of Southern Miss, Shackleford said, "The reward for initiative: there's always someone out there who'll give you a chance. Southern Miss is an opportunity school, it's going to be what you make of it."

Story by Elliott Freeman

Background Photo by Christy Dyess








Nunnery, Will *fr.*
Oke, Adewunmi *fr.*
O'Keefe, Shane *fr.*
Oldenburg, Kirk *so.*
Orr, Chris *jr.*
Orr, Shay *so.*








Owens, Kawaski *sr.*
Owens, Matt *sr.*
Padilla, Costantino *jr.*
Pamphlet, Staci *fr.*
Pardew, Mollie *sr.*
Park, Alexander *so.*








Parker, Claire *fr.*
Parker, Lisa *jr.*
Parsons, Jennifer *so.*
Patrick, Quincy *sr.*
Patterson, Marquitta *jr.*
Pattman, Erika *fr.*

Payne, Antanika *fr.*
Payton, Alidra *fr.*
Pazdersky, Chris *so.*
Peckham, Josh *jr.*
Pegues, Jonathon *jr.*
Pennypacker, Amanda *so.*








Pennypacker, Jessie *fr.*
Penton, Ryan *so.*
Peoples, Leandria *jr.*
Pereda, Max *jr.*
Perry, Amber *fr.*
Perry, La-Quita *fr.*








Perry, Virginia *jr.*
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Peterson, Dominic *sr.*
Peterson, Natriez *jr.*



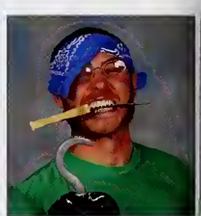





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Phillips, Joshua *sr.*





Phillips, Whitney *fr.*
Piddington, Kathryn *sr.*
Pierce, Alvy *fr.*
Pierce, Jayna *fr.*
Pierre, Schawanda *so.*
Pippin, Tashannon *fr.*








Pittman, Denalda *jr.*
Pittman, Omari *jr.*
Pittman, Shelton *jr.*
Pitts, Carmen *sr.*
Plaisance, Celeste *fr.*
Poche', Emily *so.*








Poche', Lauren *so.*
Poe, Ruth *fr.*
Poindexter, Bostic *jr.*
Polk, Debbora *fr.*
Pollard, Kristal *sr.*
Porter, Benjamin *so.*






Porter, Timothy *fr.*
Posey, Gloria *so.*
Posey, Joshua *fr.*
Poter, Byron *fr.*
Preiss, Daniel *jr.*
Price, Marlee *sr.*

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Price, Vincent *sr.*
Prudilova, Hana *sr.*
Pryce, Marlon *jr.*
Pucheu, Amanda *so.*
Puckett, Jessica *sr.*








Pulphus, Joshua *sr.*
Purvis, Brittany *so.*
Pusch, Jeff *gr.*
Quave, Debrah *jr.*
Quave, Stephanie *so.*
Quinn, Joshua *jr.*








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Raiford, Felicia *so.*
Rainey, Anglea *sr.*
Ramsay, Miranda *jr.*
Rand, Kelly *sr.*








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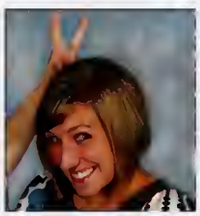







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Reese, Andrew *so.*
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Regan, Regina *sr.*
Reid, Gianni *jr.*





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Reinshagen, Janice *fr.*
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Richards, Mary *fr.*
Ricketts, LaSarah *fr.*








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Riggien, Chastity *fr.*
Riley, Brandon *jr.*
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Robertson, Alex *so.*






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Robinson, Willie *so.*
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Rodriquez, Neesha *fr.*
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Romeo, Michele *so.*
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Ross, Byron *sr.*

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Ross, Tobin *so.*
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Rudzki, Katharine *sr.*
Rush, Ryan *jr.*



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Ruspoli, Clara *fr.*
Russell, Kandace *jr.*
Rutledge, Kayla *jr.*
Ryan, Sean *sr.*
Rymniak, Zack *jr.*



Sacus, Jasmine *fr.*
Salter, Philip *fr.*
Sanchez, Rachel *so.*
Sanders, Alexis *sr.*
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Sandoz, Jessica *sr.*



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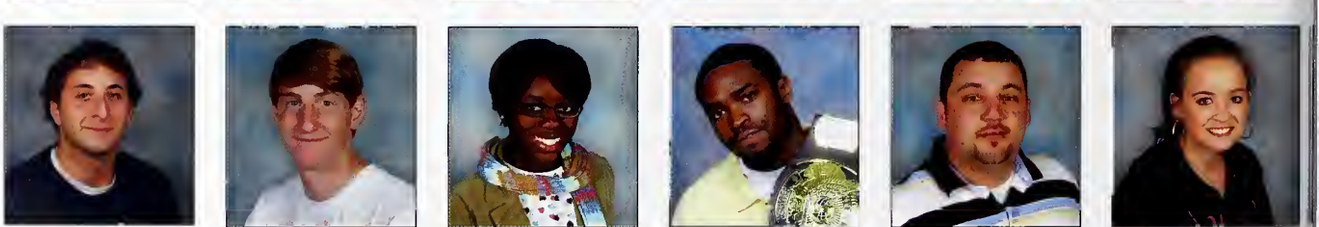
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Schott, Samantha *fr.*
Schuler, Paul *fr.*
Schultz, Leah *sr.*
Schultz, Michael *sr.*



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Scoggin, Austin *jr.*
Scott, Eboni *fr.*
Scott, Sanmetris *fr.*
Seal, Matthew *jr.*
Seal, Stephanie *fr.*



Seaphus, Christopher *jr.*
Seaton, Lindsey *fr.*
Seawright, Amber *fr.*
Selbach, Ashleigh *sr.*
Sellers, Bryan *sr.*
Shackleford, Jessica *jr.*



Shaw, Lachesne *jr.*
Shelton, Joy *so.*
Sheppard, Tiffany *fr.*
Shipley, Jennifer *so.*
Shirley, Caitlyne *so.*
Short, Kimberlee *fr.*










Shull, David *fr.*
Silva, Kevin *jr.*
Simpson-Hughes, Shannon *sr.*
Sims, Robert *fr.*
Sims, Sonya *jr.*
Sistrunk, Bethany *so.*








Skaggs, Adam *sr.*
Skrmetti, Tiffany *jr.*
Slaughter, LaVerria *so.*
Sleeseman, Hollie *so.*
Smith, Alexandria *fr.*
Smith, Andrea *so.*








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Smith, Daniel *fr.*
Smith, Derek *fr.*
Smith, Elizabeth *gr.*
Smith, Joshua *sr.*








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Smith, Katherine *jr.*
Smith, LaKeisha *fr.*
Smith, Laura *sr.*
Smith, Michael *so.*








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Smith, Terri *gr.*
Smith, Tockcey *jr.*
Smith, Travis *jr.*
Smith, Vernon *fr.*
Snyder, Meghan *so.*








Solley, Linda *fr.*
Sorey, Andrew *sr.*
Sorey, Robert *sr.*
Spain, Haley *fr.*
Spencer, Christina *fr.*
Spitz, John *fr.*






Stafford, Kristy *so.*
Stallworth, Aaron *jr.*
Stamps, LeRoy *so.*
Stancle, Courtney *so.*
Stanton, Aubrey *jr.*
Stapleton, Chandler *so.*

Stater, Stacey *jr.*
Steele, Jeremy *fr.*
Steelman, Harold *sr.*
Steinaway, Chelsea *fr.*
Stephens, Alyse *jr.*
Stephens, Andre *so.*

Stephens, Ashley *so.*
Stevens, Chanetta *fr.*
Stewart, Amber *fr.*
Stewart, Nola *so.*
Stovall, Valeria *fr.*
Stowers, Jalessa *so.*

Broadcasting Leadership

Kevin Wheeler



Campus involvement is a key ingredient for the success of a modern college student, and with all of the opportunities Southern Miss offers, students like Kevin Wheeler are given a chance to make a difference in their personal lives as well as the lives of other students.

"As a freshman, I decided I was going to get involved with lots of things on campus, but I didn't want to go overboard," said Wheeler, a senior broadcast journalism major from Birmingham, Alabama. "I knew I wanted to make an impact and better myself while helping people." With this in mind, Wheeler decided the best way to help was to dive in and explore the options that Southern Miss provided.

Kevin joined the Student Broadcasters Association (SBA) when it was just beginning to resurface at Southern Miss and proceeded to turn it into a respectable and visible campus organization. In addition, as a member and leader of Men of Excellence, he has strived to maintain the group's standards of integrity and honor.

"I try to handle the SBA in a business-like manner, which helps things run smoothly," said Wheeler. "I hear people out and I try to help who I can. I love the diversity of the group and the new experiences that it offers its members."

In contrast, according to Wheeler, his work with Men of Excellence revolves around sound leadership and managerial decisions. Wheeler has helped sponsor many events with Men of Excellence, and attributes some of his managerial skill to such experiences.

All of Wheeler's work through campus involvement has paid off for him though, as he recently became an assignment reporter for WDAM, a local Hattiesburg television station.

"I sent my resume tape in and they were really impressed. WDAM has proven to be a great steppingstone in the past, and I'm definitely hoping to use it in the same manner," said Wheeler. "It's definitely a challenge, even as a smaller station. I really hope to move up the ladder, however, into a national level job one day."

During his first year at Southern Miss, Kevin Wheeler set out with intent to leave his mark on campus, but Southern Miss has also left a mark on him. "I have a different way of handling things, and I have definitely grown and developed my leadership skills," said Wheeler. "It's a great feeling to know I helped people who might not have gotten it otherwise; that is, by far, the most rewarding part of everything I've done."

Story by Alan Wheat and Elliott Freeman

All Photos by Christopher Bostick

Strong, Kayla *fr.*
Stubbs III, Eugene *sr.*
Stull, Melissa *sr.*
Sullivan, Kyle *jr.*
Sullivan, Vixon *fr.*
Swanigan, Carl *sr.*








Sweet, Chad *fr.*
Sybert, Christine *sr.*
Szabo, Andie *fr.*
Tanner, Micah *sr.*
Tate, Alonte *fr.*
Taylor, Arnold *so.*








Taylor, Brittney *sr.*
Taylor, Felisha *so.*
Taylor, Jaslynn *fr.*
Taylor, Joseph *sr.*
Taylor, LaShannah *fr.*
Taylor, Nicole *fr.*















Terrell, Sara *so.*
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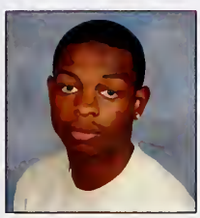







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Thomas, Davin *sr.*
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Thomas, Jessica *jr.*
Thomas, Jimmy *so.*





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Thomas, Marchandria *so.*
Thomas, Ronalda *fr.*
Thomas, Sean *so.*
Thomas, Shantelle *fr.*
Thomas, Tekedra *jr.*








Thomas, Wentrell *fr.*
Thompkins, Laterrika *so.*
Thompkins, Tyson *fr.*
Thompson, Ashley *jr.*
Thompson, Jessica *jr.*
Thompson, Natalie *sr.*








Thurman, Leroy *jr.*
Tiffani, Brown *sr.*
Tillman, Stevette *jr.*
Tisdale, James *sr.*
Tolon, Jennifer *jr.*
Tonguis, Michael *so.*








Trunell, Murquel *so.*
Tullos, Cody *so.*
Tureaud, Ashton *sr.*
Tureaud, Lauren *so.*
Turnage, William *jr.*
Turner, LeBrio *sr.*






Turner, Michael *fr.*
Turner, Shayla *so.*
Turnipseed, Johnnie *sr.*
Tynes, Darren *so.*
Tyson, Rickey *so.*
Ulrey, Shannon *fr.*

Unda, Marcelo *so.*
Vaughan, Joshua *so.*
Vaughn, Chad *sr.*
Vaughn, Jacqueline *so.*
Vaughn, Maria *fr.*
Vaughn, Mary *fr.*

Veal, Asia *fr.*
Venson, Betina *jr.*
Vital, Jennifer *sr.*
Wagner, Sydnie *fr.*
Waldrep, Samantha *jr.*
Walker, Alishia *so.*

Walker, Brooke *fr.*
Walker, Caitlin *fr.*
Walker, Christopher *jr.*
Walker, Durell *fr.*
Walker, Kasey *so.*
Walker, Madison *so.*









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Wallace, Thomas *fr.*
Walshock, Kristin *so.*
Walters, Hilliary *sr.*








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Walters, Lesley *so.*
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Ward, Devlon *so.*
Ward, Jacqueline *sr.*








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Ward, Marvin *jr.*
Ward, Wren *sr.*
Warren, Cherrosette *so.*
Warshauer, Bradley *jr.*
Warshuer, Elizabeth *fr.*








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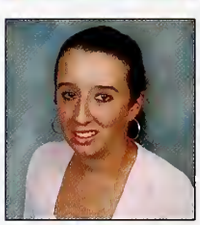







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Weatherspoon, Michele *sr.*








Weinacker, Elizabeth *jr.*
Weinacker, Sidney *sr.*
Welch, Halima *gr.*
Wells, Carlos *jr.*
Wells, Elisa *so.*
Wells, Kentoine *fr.*






West, Britny *fr.*
West, LaChristie *fr.*
West, Victoria *so.*
Westbrook, Megan *jr.*
Whalen, Tommy *so.*
Wheat, Alan *jr.*

Wheaton, Stacey *so.*
Wheeler, Kevin *sr.*
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White, Andrew *so.*
White, Arrian *jr.*








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Whiteside, Matt *sr.*
Wilcox, Zachary *so.*
Williams, Brian *sr.*








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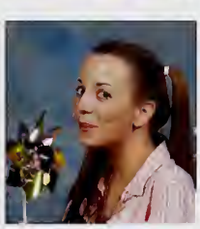







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Wingler, Dixie *fr.*








Winn, Brittany *fr.*
Winter, Jennifer *gr.*
Wojtala, Erin *fr.*
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Wood, Derik *jr.*
Wood, Kyle *jr.*






Woodall, Helen *fr.*
Woodard, Crystal *so.*
Woodcock, Lee Anna *fr.*
Woods, Curtis *so.*
Woods, Jerald *fr.*
Worthy, Edward *jr.*

Wright, Shawana *fr.*
Wu, Calvin *so.*
Yancey, Tonya *fr.*
Young, Jerome *so.*
Young, Shelcey *jr.*
Zeanah, Samuel *jr.*



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William David
Briana Dekemel
Robert Dickson
Dr. Ralph Goodman
Simmie Heidelburg, Jr.
Kenya Mead

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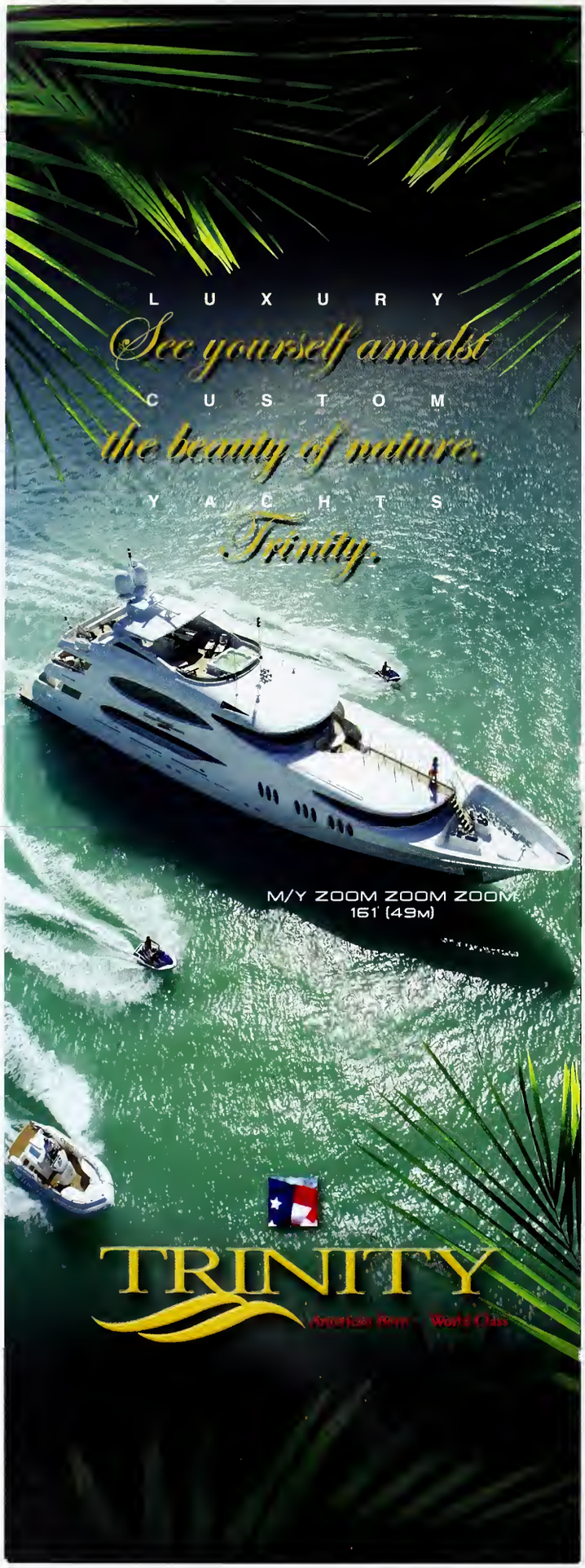
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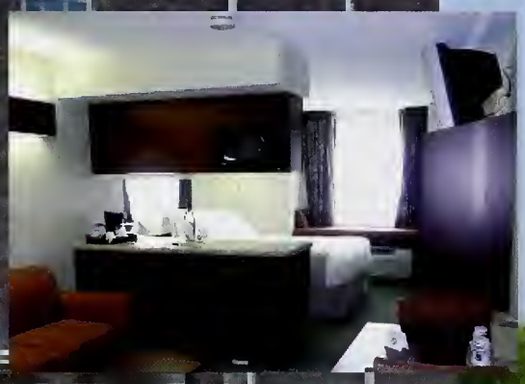
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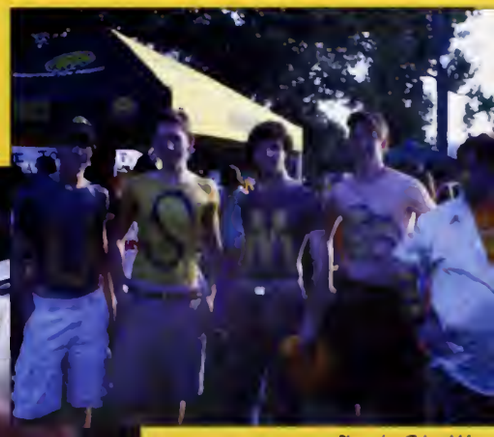


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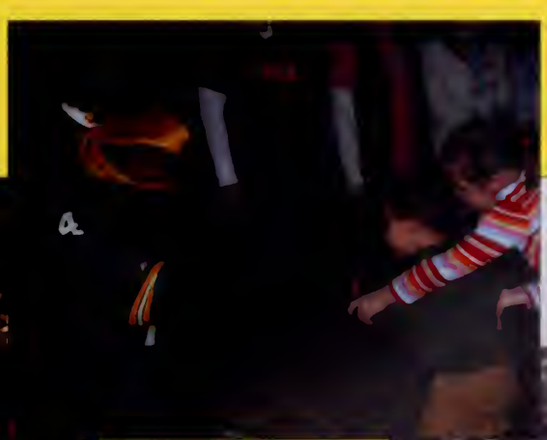


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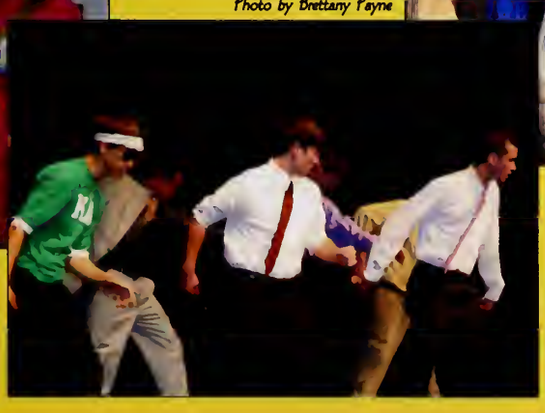
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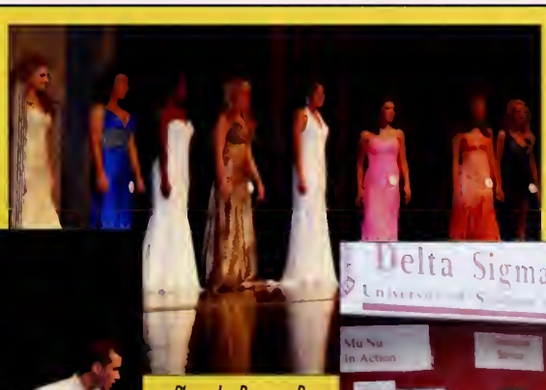


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Sorry X's, you lose.

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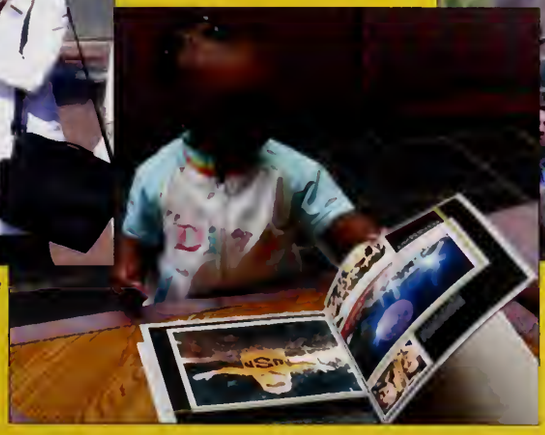


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Our consciousness rarely registers the beginning of a growth within us any more than without us; there have been many circulations of the sap before we detect the smallest sign of the bud. –George Eliot

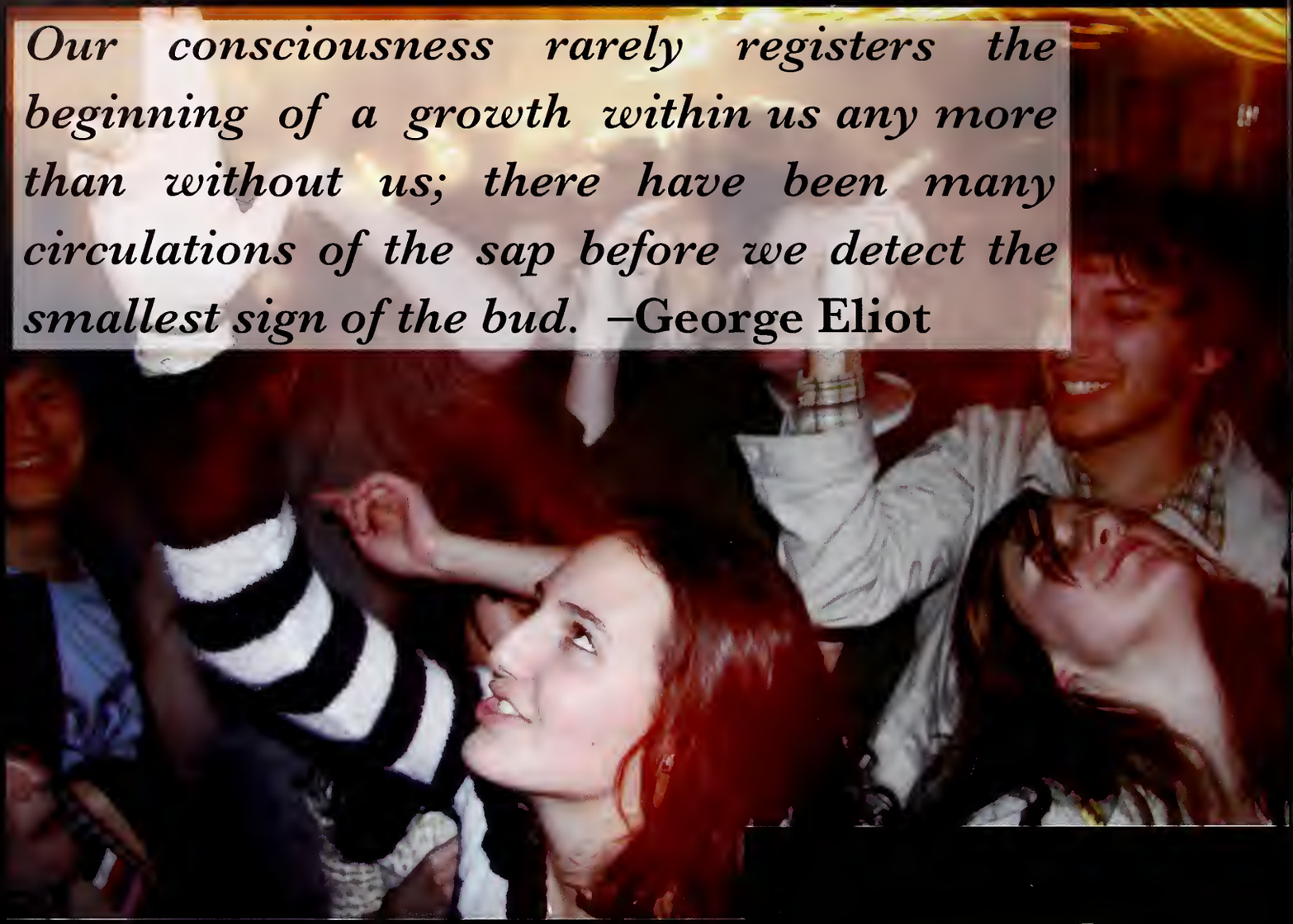


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All growth depends upon activity. There is no development physically or intellectually without effort, and effort means work.
–Calvin Coolidge

Photo by Elizabeth Maloy



Photos by Elizabeth Maloy

Conformity is the jailer of freedom and the enemy of growth. –John Fitzgerald Kennedy

Problems do not go away. They must be worked through or else they remain, forever a barrier to the growth and development of the spirit. –Dr. Morgan Scott Peck

Photo by Elizabeth Maloy



Photo by Elizabeth Maloy



Photo by Christy Dyess

There is a wide world out there, my friend, full of pain, but filled with joy as well. The former keeps you on the path of growth, and the latter makes the journey tolerable.
–Montolio De'Broochee







All Photos by Christy Dyess



Colophon



Photo by Jaime McKercher

General:

The Southerner 2008, volume 72, began in the summer semester of 2007 and was completed in the spring semester of 2008 by an all-student staff at The University of Southern Mississippi as a publication of The University of Southern Mississippi Board of Publications. It was printed by Friesens in Altona, Manitoba, Canada. The Southerner Staff consisted of approximately 30 undergraduate students. The advisor was Trey Skaggs, Assistant Director of Student Activities. The graduate assistant was Emily Guyton. The book is free of charge to all full-time undergraduate students who are enrolled in both fall and spring semesters of the 2007-2008 academic year. Students who are not full-time and the general public may purchase the book for $20. 3500 books were printed.

Printing:

All 352 pages were printed in 4-color on 80 pound Friesens Envirolux Eco-Friendly Paper. 60% of the paper fiber contains post-consumer recycled fiber. 20% is traditional recycled stock recovered from pre-consumer operations. 20% is from paper pulp certifiably from managed forests, not ancient ones. All percentages certified by the Forest Stewardship Council. The endsheets were printed on Carolina C1S 10-point paper stock.

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Photo by Christopher Bostick

growth

the southerner 2008

volume 72



Photo by Christy Dyess

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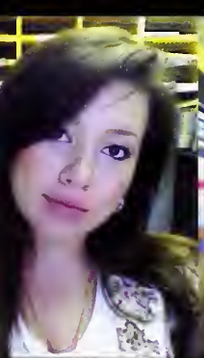


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Photo Strip Thanks to iMac PhotoBooth



The term ***growth*** has been repeat
and echoed throughout this book, and t
good reason:

Dr. Saunders wowed us all with her fi
year in office, as only a visible and endeari
president could.

New head coach Larry Fedora h
stepped in and has started to build upor
strong foundation established by years
dedication from Jeff Bower.

The continued recovery of the Gu
Coast facilities is persisting with t
reopening of the renovated Long Bea
campus library and the plans for the ne
Cross Creek campus.

The Village opened its doors to hundre
of enthusiastic women; the finishing touch
are being placed on the Trent Lott Cent
for Economic Development; and the M.
Roberts Stadium addition is shooting up
record time.

With the final touches being made
the Master Plan, things are looking pre
exciting for Southern Miss.

Growth in our university is major, b
a university's sole purpose is to encoura
the growth of the staff, faculty, and mo
importantly, its students. College is
journey for all of us, and I hope that
of you **enjoy the ride**. Make the most
the opportunities available to you. Op
yourself up to Southern Miss, and it w
return the favor a **thousand times over**

Thank you to all the individuals who p
countless hours of effort into making th
book, and thank you for the entertainme
in the office until 3 a.m. on many lon
nights. We remember as well one of o
brilliant and dedicated staff members wh
passed away this year, **Briana Dekeme**
you are loved and missed.

As the graduating class of 2008 mov
on, I want you to reflect on how much yo
Southern Miss experience has helped yo
grow. For those of you who aren't qui
done yet, **cherish your time here** an
share the stories and traditions wi
the next class to help them understand ho
deep the love for Southern Miss runs in a
our veins.

Thank you Southern Miss.

- jaime mckercher, executive editor

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